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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you intend to sign the petition to put Article 12 on the ballot this November?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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ASIA

Aung San Suu Kyi claims victory in Myanmar's historic by-election.

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FOCUS

When the 1940 census records are released, Verla Morris can consider herself part of living history.

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LIFE & STYLE

Taylor Swift wins her second entertainer of the year award at the ACM awards.

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Four recipes top PSS cooking competition. PAGE 2
Manta Rays finishes 3rd in national JROTC competition. PAGE 3

Fitial, Manglona, others back placing Art. 12 on ballot

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive Ignacio "Ike" Demapan, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), and others are supporting a signature campaign to put the question on Article 12 in the Nov. 6 ballot—albeit for different reasons.

Article 12 of the NMI Constitution restricts ownership of land to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

The Citizens for Change of Article 12, led by its chairman, Efrain F. Camacho, launched the signature campaign on Friday. The group's ultimate goal is to have Article 12 repealed in its entirety to ensure fairness and equality in land-

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Two arrested for GES burglary

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police arrested Friday night two Division of Sports and Recreation employees for allegedly burglarizing the Garapan Elementary School and carting off more than $6,000 worth of equipment and other instructional materials.

John B. Reyes Jr., 34, and Mario O. Sablan, 35, both assigned at the Oleai Sports Complex, were taken to Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing on charges of burglary and theft.

From $25,000 cash each, Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo lowered their bail to $5,000 cash each. Govendo told the two that they may request the court

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Buckingham fires Ernest

» Fitial names acting DPL, DPW chiefs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham terminated "without cause" assistant attorney general Michael L. Ernest on Thursday, the same day that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked former Department of Public Lands secretary Oscar M. Babauta and former Department of Public Works secretary Martin Sablan to turn in their resignation letters.

Ernest

Neither OAG nor the Office of the Governor could say whether Ernest's termination was linked to Fitial's removal of Babauta and Sablan.

Buckingham's March 29 "no-

See ERNEST on Page 4

SEAMANSHIP TRAINING

Petty Officers Brian Sink and Scott Camacho bring Auxiliary members out to the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* by small boat for a day of seamanship training. This training will help Auxiliary members when the flotilla establishes their boats in the future.

U.S. COAST GUARD/LT. LISA RODMAN

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Local

Senate panel to OPA: Probe MPLT land purchase

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A Senate committee had asked the Office of the Public Auditor to investigate the Marianas Public Land Trust's 2008 purchase of private land on Capital Hill for $272,000, allegedly without the blessing of the full MPLT board, without any appraisal report prior to buying the property, and a possible conflict of interest involving one of two former MPLT trustees and their relative(s).

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, cited several reasons for OPA to further investigate the questionable land purchase.

Preliminary information that the EAGI panel gathered involving the land purchase had already cost the reappointments to the MPLT board of its former chair Alvaro Santos and Gregoria-Fitial Omar.

Santos is the governor's ally, and Fitial-Omar is Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's younger sister.

When the EAGI panel asked for and received more information and documents from MPLT about the land purchase, the committee found more possible areas for investigations by OPA.

Pedro Deleon Guerrero, the current chairman of the MPLT board, said yesterday he welcomes any OPA investigation if that's what it will take to clear the names of former MPLT board members.

» EAGI says land bought at $272K in 2008 now only costs $132K

"I don't have a problem with OPA investigating it. I welcome it in the interest of clearing these peoples' names," he said in a phone interview.

The Senate EAGI panel received on Jan. 3 Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos's re-appointment of Santos and Fitial-Omar to serve a second term of six years on the MPLT board.

After a public notice for a scheduled public hearing on the nominations, the EAGI committee said it had received information and requests to look into MPLT's 2008 land purchase under Santos's chairmanship allegedly because it was bought without the approval of the majority of the board "but rather a person or two only, which contradicts and violates the bylaws" of MPLT.

Santos, during a Feb. 7 public hearing on his nomination, told the EAGI panel that the land purchase was legitimate and approved by majority of the MPLT board.

The EAGI panel asked for more information and documents about the land purchase,including journals of meetings wherein they discussed the purchase and appraisal of the property.

On Feb. 23, Santos submitted to the EAGI panel two pages of what Cruz described as "personal letter explaining and justifying" buying the land.

On March 7, the Senate rejected Santos' confirmation, at the recommendation of the EAGI Committee "because he chose not to comply with the EAGI Committee to submit any and all documents relative to the purchase of the private property in question."

Two days later, the EAGI panel asked for any and all documents related to the land purchase using an Open Government Act request for information.

On March 22, the committee received documents from MPLT, but not those considered under attorney-client privilege.

Cruz's EAGI committee cited six reasons to further probe the matter.

First, the journals of meetings were not clear that the majority of the MPLT board approved the land purchase.

Second, the appraisal reports came after the property was already bought.

Third, the appraisal report revealed that the property can be for rural use only, but MPLT's purpose was to use the land for its office space and commercial use.

Fourth, two checks issued on March 14 and 15 amounting to $27,200 and $244,800, respectively, for a total of $272,000, were endorsed by Santos and Fitial-Omar.

Fifth, then former MPLT treasurer Norman Tenorio refused to endorse or sign the check for the land purchase.

Sixth, a 2011 appraisal of the same private property valued the land at $132,000, a sharp depreciation from the time it was bought in 2008 at $272,000.

Cruz said sources also revealed that "party of benefits and individual in question are somewhat have family relationship (sic).

The EAGI panel chair reiterated that the committee's actions were not politically motivated.

Four special recipes top PSS cooking competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Four special recipes created and presented by young chefs from private and public schools topped the Public School System's Student Healthy Recipe Contest Cook-Off on Saturday. The competition saw the participation of 27 teams from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For the 9th to 12th division, the winning team was composed of Josifynn Rasa, Harrison Smith, and Evert Van Der Maas from the Northern Marianas Academy who impressed the judges with their "Guihan Tortizas," a concoction of local salsa, fish, fruit cocktail, and tortillas as its main ingredients.

Judges also gave the nod to the creation of Mount Carmel School's Keona Camacho, whose "Tofu with Vegetables" made her the winner in the 7th to 8th grade division.

The "Crunch Mango and Cucumber Salad" made by Julie Ann Long and Magdelena Lieto from Tanapag Elementary School was victorious in the 4th to 6th grade category.

In the kindergarten to third grade division, judges hailed the creation of Dandan Elementary School students Tivana Torres, Vincent Torres, and Jesse Taitano, who perfected their "Grilled Fruits" entry.

According to CNMI-PSS nutritionist Dianne Esplin, a total of 27 teams registered for the competition, which had the theme "Get Your Plate In Shape" and emphasized the need for a balance diet.

The K-3 category featured softer local fruits like bananas and papayas while the 4th to 6th category featured some of the fruits that take a little more skill with the knife, such as watermelon and pineapple. The 7th to 8th category featured local vegetables while the 9th to 12th category had to create a full balanced meal, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, protein, and dairy, based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's MyPlate nutrition model.

"Our judges were very impressed with all the student recipes, and the competition was very close in several categories. We hope that this event opened our student's eyes to even more appetizing ways to eat a balanced diet," Esplin said.

Research has shown that people who eat a variety of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains daily have lower incidences of non-communicable diseases like cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and stroke. These diseases are a huge problem in the CNMI.

"It's never too late to choose healthy eating, but the younger you start, the better. The future health of CNMI depends on the healthy choices right now," Esplin said.

She pointed out that CNMI is abundant with healthy fruits and vegetables that are locally grown. Not only does choosing to eat these foods keep people healthy, but they also help the local economy grow by supporting local farmers.

This year's judges were from Auntie Mag's Catering, Barny's Pizza, CNMI WIC, Commonwealth Cancer Association, Commonwealth Health Center, Division of Public Health, Herman's Modern Bakery, Hyatt Regency Saipan, LSG Sky Chefs, Marianas Health Services, and MV Reyes Catering. The competition was held at the Pacific Islands Club Ironwoods Lawn.

IN MAYOR FLORES' LAWSUIT VS 2 BANKS

FHB asks court to dismiss Union Bank's cross-claim complaint

First Hawaiian Bank has asked the federal court to dismiss the cross-claim complaint filed by Union Bank in connection with Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores' lawsuit against the two banks.

FHB, through counsel Richard Johnson, asserted that Union Bank's complaint for contribution must be dismissed "for failure to state a claim."

Johnson said Union Bank's cross-claim presents no facts that supports the claim for indemnity.

"First Hawaiian Bank and the court are left guessing at what the basis for that claim might be," Johnson said in FHB's motion to dismiss cross-claim.

Union Bank, formerly known as Union Bank of California, filed the cross-claim complaint against FHB for indemnification and contributory fault and contribution.

Union Bank had asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold FHB responsible for the payment of all damages being claimed by Flores.

Attorney Sean Frink said that if his client, Union Bank, is found liable to Flores in any amount, the damages must be apportioned according to the liability of all of the parties in the lawsuit.

Flores is suing the two banks for allegedly refusing to return the principal and interest earned of a Time Certificate of Deposit in the amount of $200,000 that he purchased from the then Union Bank Saipan branch in 1993.

Flores is suing the banks for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, negligence or gross negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, and fraud.

On Nov. 15, 2001, Union Bank reportedly sold all assets and liabilities of its Saipan branch office to FHB.

Last month, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted FHB's motion to dismiss Flores' causes of action.

Flores then filed a first amended complaint against the two banks. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tourism
Tuesday
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
Marianas Photo Contests in Korea
Dynamic photos from the Northern Marianas take front stage in the Marianas Photo Contests launched by the Marianas Visitors Authority in Korea last month.
The photo contest aims to increase awareness of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through online marketing tools and gather high quality photos for a promotional poster. The contest has two categories: landscapes and people in the Marianas. The grand prize winner will walk away with a brand-name bag, while gift certificates await the golden and silver prize winners, and Marianas travel bags go to the bronze prize winners.
In addition, 50 participants who follow the MVA's Korean Twitter account and re-tweet the event message or who post a comment on the MVA's Korea blog at http://blog.naver.com/mvakr will receive a coffee coupon.
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Manta Rays finish third in national JROTC competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays once again made their home islands proud after winning third place in last Sunday's U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC National Drill Championship.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that she was made aware of the group's latest achievement yesterday afternoon.

The SSHS Manta Ray Team was hailed third best team in the armed drill division of the competition where 50 school district teams across the nation competed. The group was among the representatives from the region after it won the title in the regional event held in California last February.

Members of the winning team include Amante Andrada, Jayson Arriola, Kenneth Catillo, Welington David, Derick Dela Cruz, John Hofschneider, Alexander Ito, Mark Kapileo, Ernesto Medina, Kristofer Morales, Arjay Ordonez, Jude Palacios, Nicko Salem, Sheela Saraff, Dan Tumaquip, and Jomalyn Gelacio.

Sablan said this was the first time for PSS to join the national JROTC event and she is overjoyed that the CNMI actually took home the third place trophy.

Sablan said the group will be back tonight from the national competition. "We're very, very pleased with their participation and outcome," she said yesterday.

The 16-member group of the SSHS JROTC Team flew to Louisville, Kentucky last Tuesday to represent the CNMI and the region in the U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC National Drill Championship. The national competition took place on Sunday, Saipan time.

SSHS vice principal Jocelyn Manibusan said Friday that the group was accompanied to Kentucky by principal Jesse Tudela and the school army instructors, Leonardo Rabago and Joaquin Kiyoshi.

In this file photo, the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray cadets gather for a group photo with Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada after ruling the JROTC's "Battle Drill for Long Beach" at the Marianas High School grounds.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI PSS JROTC held an islandwide competition at Marianas High School on Jan. 14 where the SSHS team won the armed portion of the competition. The team was among the three groups from PSS that participated in the California drill where they earned the slot to the national event.

The JROTC program has rapidly grown into one of the most popular and appreciated programs in the CNMI's educational system and is offered at its five secondary schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The Manta Ray Band has also won several accolades for the CNMI and will perform in the 2012 London Olympics this summer.

Judge transfers criminal case vs ex-CUC manager to Texas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court transferred yesterday to the Southern District of Texas the criminal case filed against David P. Preston, the man hired for a management position at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. but who never returned to Saipan after receiving an advance payment of $15,504.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the transfer of Preston's case after receiving the defendant's written statement filed in the Southern District of Texas.

In the statement, Preston expressed his wish to plead guilty and waive trial in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Preston also consented to the U.S. District Court for the NMI's disposing of the case in the Southern District of Texas, where he was arrested and currently is present.

Manglona said the U.S. Attorneys in both districts approved the transfer of the case.

The indictment filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI charges Preston with four counts of wire fraud.

Preston was arrested in Houston, Texas, on Oct. 4, 2011.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Office of the Inspector General conducted the investigation, with the assistance from the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor.

The indictment alleges that Preston obtained monies by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, and by omissions of facts.

Preston allegedly sent by fax transmission his employment application, which contained false information, to CUC, caused CUC to expend monies toward his salary, and moving expenses, and the wire transfer of funds from CUC to his personal bank account.

According to CUC, Preston worked only for six days and returned to Texas in 2010.

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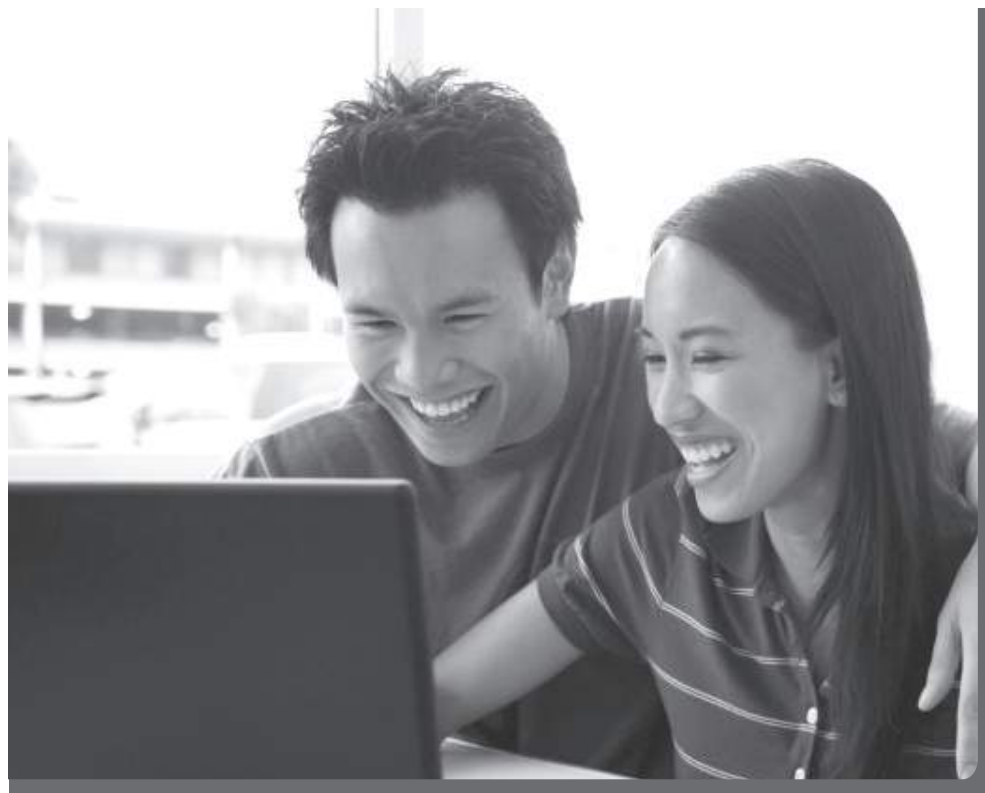

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2 in fake Viagra case agree to plead guilty

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has vacated all hearings and trial date in the case against two persons who were allegedly involved in selling Viagra-like pills on Saipan.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday vacated all hearings and the scheduled May 12, 2012, trial in the case after defendants Kwok Kwun Lee and Sook Lan Wong signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe on Friday notified the court about the plea agreement. Backe requested the court to set a change of plea hearing on April 23, 2012, at 9am.

Manglona granted Backe's motion and requested change of plea hearing date.

Lee agrees to plead guilty to count 4 of the indictment charging him with receipt and delivery of misbranded drugs. Wong agrees to plead guilty to a one-count information charging her with receipt and delivery of misbranded drugs.

According to the plea agreement, Lee, a Chinese national, on Feb. 28, 2011, received, delivered, and sold 30 bottles containing 30 100 mg tablets of counterfeit Viagra, to a confidential informant for $1,800.

Wong, a Malaysian national, on Feb. 15, 2011 on Saipan, received, delivered, and sold a bottle containing 30 100 mg tablets of counterfeit Viagra, to a confidential informant for $65. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ERNEST

From Page 1

tice of termination" was signed and acknowledged by Ernest yesterday, April 2, based on a copy of the termination letter obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Ernest, when asked for comment yesterday, said, "I appreciate the opportunity I had to serve the Commonwealth and I wish my fellow assistant attorneys general nothing but the best. Beyond that, I have no further comment at this time."

Buckingham said that in accordance with Ernest's contract, his employment will be terminated 30 days from receipt of the letter.

"This termination is not considered to be for reason of cause. Your last day will be Saturday, April 28, 2012," Buckingham told Ernest.

Effective immediately, Ernest was placed on annual leave. Buckingham said that Ernest will be granted supplemental administrative leave "so that you may have continuous leave from now through April 28, 2012."

The AG's one-page letter to Ernest started with, "Your services with the Commonwealth Government during your period of employment as an assistant attorney general has been greatly appreciated. However, the Office of the Attorney General has elected not to continue your employment."

The conditions of Ernest's employment "provide for early termination of employment."

Ernest was a former chief prosecutor at the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division. Late last year, sources from the legal community and OAG said that Ernest submitted his resignation letter to Buckingham. He has since been replaced by Peter Prestley as chief prosecutor.

Buckingham appointed Ernest as chief prosecutor in June 2010 after Rosemond B. Santos resigned from the post.

Prior to joining the OAG, Ernest served as Senate legal counsel for five years.

Acting DPL, DPW chiefs

At the same time, Fitial designated yesterday DPL deputy secretary Pedro I. Itibus as acting DPL secretary.

Vicente B. Castro, the special assistant for operations at DPW, is the acting DPW secretary effective immediately.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said these temporary designations will be in effect "until such time that a new nomination is rendered."

"The governor is now in the process of selecting nominees to fill the two Cabinet vacancies," he said.

The governor's appointees to these posts need the advice and consent of the Senate.

Babauta and Sablan did not follow the governor to the Republican Party and have instead remained with the Covenant Party, which the governor formed 11 years ago to support his gubernatorial bid. He won in his second try.

The press secretary said the governor is currently assessing his Cabinet organization as part of his midterm review of his second term in office. He said in this regard, Fitial "strongly believes that in order for any chief executive to effectively carry out his administration's goals and objectives, it is important to ensure that executive appointees of his Cabinet also share the same principles. The same Cabinet assessment is widely practiced by the United States president and other state governors."

FITIAL

From Page 1

ownership among NMDs and their descendants and help grow the economy, among other things.

Demapan said people may have the notion that as Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive, he is entirely opposed to the repeal of Article 12, but this is not the case.

"It's time to be more realistic and practical," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He, however, said he used to support retaining Article 12 "but times have changed," considering that the CNMI is now in "terrible" economic situation.

"We should look at ways to have better lives. At this time I'd like to see if it's going to help private landowners. I will sign the petition to have it in the ballot so that majority of the CNMI people will dictate what they want with Article 12," he said, sharing these statements both as Indigenous Affairs resident executive and as a private person.

He said Article 12 has created division and putting the question in the ballot will help end that division so that people can move on.

"Even if Article 12 is repealed, [NMDs] can still lease [land] and not sell it," said Demapan, whose own daughter married a non-NMD whose child only has a 50-percent NMD blood based on Article 12 restrictions on landownership.

The children of that particular child will only have 25 percent NMD blood and that child's children will not have the right to own land in the CNMI, despite his or her indigenous roots.

Others like former House speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero, a strong advocate for the retention of Article 12, wishes the Citizens for Change of Article 12 "good luck" in getting as many signatures as possible to directly put the question before voters in the midterm polls.

"I wish them good luck. But for those people who don't support the repeal of Article 12, they don't have to sign the petition," Deleon Guerrero said.

But CCA12's Camacho pointed out that the signature drive is only a petition to get Article 12 on the November ballot, so the group urges voters to sign the petition.

"By signing the petition, you are not voting 'yes' or 'no' [to the repeal or retention]. You are only voting to have it [on] the ballot," Camacho said.

CCA12 wants to gather some 3,000 voters' signatures to have Article 12 question placed on the ballot.

The initiative's title is "To propose a constitutional amendment for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to vote to repeal Article."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial "agrees that this is an opportune time to put the matter of Article 12 on the ballot," said press secretary Angel Demapan said

"There has been increased dialogue in the community between citizens who support it and those who oppose it. Thus, getting it on the ballot would provide our leaders with a basis to gauge how our citizens feel about this issue," the press secretary said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately said he's in full support of the signature campaign "because I want the people to decide on it."

"I firmly believe that this is going to be a big boost to the economy. We used to have a vibrant economy but times have changed. Investors with leases now have maybe 13 to 15 years left on their leases and the only way we can ask them to move forward with their development plans is if they see an opportunity to extend their lease or renegotiate the lease to fee simple," Manglona said.

The Senate president said: "Governor Fitial's proposal to sell public lands fee simple is not the same as repealing Article 12."

"Many people are asking, why should the government sell public lands when private landowners are not allowed? I believe people are now more sophisticated and are more aware of the value of their land and ready to decide to repeal or retain Article 12," he said.

The Senate president said he will be a "champion of this initiative."

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), for his part, said he doesn't support Article 12's repeal.

"I don't want to sign something I don't support but if it does go to the ballot, we leave it up to the people to decide. Once it gets to the ballot, I will vote 'no' to repeal," he said.

Palacios said when the CNMI economy was booming, nobody questioned Article 12. He said he believes "everything changed" after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks or because of security threats.

He said he'd rather support the proposal to reduce the NMD blood requirement from 25 percent to at least 1 percent to be able to own land in the CNMI.

"As long as you can trace your bloodline to a Chamorro or Carolinian, then you can own land," he said.

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said he signed the petition yesterday so that it will be placed before voters in the election.

"Article 12 has served its purpose. I hope this will stimulate more discussion on the pros and cons of repealing or retaining Article 12," he said.

CCA12 core members Camacho, treasurer David M. Sablan, and former representative Diego Benavente said they decided to pursue a popular initiative because all of the legislative initiatives to repeal Article 12 have not been approved and are not likely to be approved by both houses of the Legislature.

Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986. That 25-year period ended in 2011, just in time for this year's midterm polls to be able to ask voters.

Those who wish to sign the petition are asked to contact any of the CCA12 core members: chair Camacho at 322-7814 or 483-7814; treasurer David Sablan at 235-0560 Ext. 109, former representative Diego Benavente at 483-5848, vice chair Vince Seman; secretary and former senator Frica Pangelinan, Alex Sablan, Jay Santos, Maggie Sablan, Cathy Cepeda, John DelRosario, and Jesus Elameto.

The group will also be distributing copies of the initiative and signature sheets for people who want to help gather signatures on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as well as in U.S. states where there are major concentrations of NMDs from the CNMI.

For years now, CCA12 has been stimulating discussions to help ensure that many would know more about Article 12 instead of only its "supposed protection of Northern Marianas descent."

"If you look closely at the provisions, they are working against a lot of NMDs and as time progresses, there will be more dilution of blood because of mixed marriages. The 25 percent blood quantum will soon be lower than 25 percent so those [persons] will be without right to own fee simple land in the Northern Mariana Islands. So you ask yourself, is Article 12 then protecting NMDs?" Camacho asked.

Another signature drive has been launched to put the question of whether Saipan voters would like to legalize casino gaming on Saipan.

TWO

From Page 1

to be allowed to post only 10 percent of the amount.

Both defendants had numerous traffic offenses but no felony convictions, according to the judge.

Reyes Jr. is the son of former Department of Public Works secretary John Reyes Sr., who was present at yesterday's proceeding. Govendo said that Reyes Jr.'s father is eligible to serve as third-party custodian.

Attorney Stephen Woodruff served as counsel for Reyes Jr., while assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti represented Sablan. Assistant attorney general Darren Robinson appeared for the government.

Police detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety received a call last week, March 26, about a burglary and theft incident at Garapan Elementary School.

Norita said that during his interview on Thursday, the school's security guard stated that his co-worker and supervisor had called him on March 25 to go to the school because some classrooms had been burglarized. After the investigation, the guard said he went back home and then reported back to the Garapan school at 2pm that same day.

The guard claimed that at 5pm, as he was facing north toward the Headstart classrooms (house numbers M-38 and M-39), he spotted in the open yard behind M-38 John (Reyes) and Sablan, who were both standing.

The guard noticed that Reyes was holding two keyboards, while Sablan was carrying a big rainbow-colored bag. Reyes and Sablan then walked to the back of house number M-35 and placed the two keyboards and bag inside a closet.

As Reyes and Sablan were walking in the open yard, Sablan saw the guard. He allegedly dropped to one knee and got on his cell phone. The guard ran to the western side of the gate to go after Reyes and Sablan. When he arrived at the location, the two were no longer there.

The guard then checked the closet of M-35 and found the two keyboards but not the rainbow-colored bag. He took the two keyboards and checked the perimeter of the Headstart room. That's when he discovered that house numbers M-36 and M-37 had been burglarized, noting the doorknobs that had been broken off from the doors. Both rooms are being used to store the school's equipment.

The guard reported his findings to his supervisor and then secured the two piano keyboards in his desk.

The next day, the guard learned that two keyboards were stolen from M-36 and notified the principal that he saw Reyes and Sablan behind M-38.

The guard said he knows Reyes and Sablan because two weeks before to the incident, the two suspects came to school to repair the basketball court's board and rim.

One teacher corroborated the guard's statement that the suspects, along with other Sports and Recreation employees, were at the school on March 13 to repair the basketball court rim and backboard.

One teacher said that her classroom (D-107) lost three silver iMac computers, one white iMac computer, and an Epson LCD projector, all worth $4,494.97.

Another teacher said stolen from her classroom (M-39) were one HP LaserJet printer, a silver iMac, one Tripplite surge projector, and a 15-inch black TV set, all worth $1,589.98.

The two keyboards were estimated to cost at $95.99 each.

None of the stolen items has been recovered.

Hart: Renaming NMC will risk accreditation status

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is opposing a bill that seeks to rename the college in honor of former governor Carlos S. Camacho, saying the move with risk the institution's accreditation status with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Hart

In a March 30 letter to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), NMC president Sharon Y. Hart acknowledged that Camacho was highly instrumental in the creation of NMC and his contributions should be recognized in a manner that is appropriate and fitting.

However, Hart said that changing the college's name will present NMC with financial and marketing challenges and accreditation-related issues.

Hart disclosed that, based on the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Substantive Change Policy, any change in the official name of the institution constitutes a substantive change that requires the commission's approval.

"That process is a lengthy one that involves the college notifying ACCJC and preparing a substantive change proposal for submission to ACCJC's substantive change committee, that committee reviewing the application, and the ACCJC itself further deliberating on the proposed change," said Hart.

"We believe that initiating a substantive change approval request may distract NMC from its self-evaluation efforts. In fact, ACCJC policy states that institutions may not submit a substantive change proposal in the six-month period preceding the site visit," she added.

An accreditation team is scheduled to visit the campus in October and, with barely six months to the visit, Hart said the proposed change would run the risk of violating ACCJC policy.

Even if the college submits a substantive proposal change to ACCJC, Hart said a decision will not be rendered pending the re-affirmation of the college's accreditation status.

NMC is on continued probation status and is presently addressing the remaining deficiencies cited by the accreditation commission.

The president stressed that the college's opposition to House Bill 17-41 in no way diminishes Camacho's important role in establishing the college, nor its willingness to pay tribute to his accomplishments.

Fashion show a preview of Project: PROM outfits

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence will be hosting a mini-fashion show to showcase the dresses and suits that were donated by various businesses and individuals in support of Project: PROM.

The show is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, at about 7:30pm or 8pm in front of Power 99 office along Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Coalition program assistant Keala Peters said that the fashion show aims to give the audience, particularly public high school students, a preview of the dresses, suits, and accessories they will distribute to selected public high school students.

Interested high school students have until April 11 to fill out and submit a form that includes an essay on how to become an advocate against domestic and sexual violence.

"We want to reach out to students and encourage them to become advocates against violence in the community, which would qualify them to be among the recipients of the donated prom dresses and suits," Peters told *Saipan Tribune*.

Donated items will be distributed to eligible recipients on April 14 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, during which a workshop covering prom-related topics will be hosted by the coalition and the group Teen Talk.

Project: PROM, an innovative awareness campaign that seeks to empower high school students about healthy relationships while making prom affordable for them, is in celebration of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

As part of the celebration, the coalition is also scheduled to conduct a Walk Against Sexual Violence every Wednesday in April.

Tomorrow's walk will be held at William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa. Registration starts at 4pm; the walk will begin at 4:30pm. The first 75 walkers will get a free shirt.

For more information, call 234-3878 or kealapeters670@gmail.com.

Ukulele lessons at public library

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will soon be offering an after-school ukulele program for students 8 years or older.

The program, which aims to teach students a new skill, is in partnership with the Arts Council.

Classes will be held Thursdays, 4pm to 5pm, from April 12 to May 31 at the public library's Children of Our Homeland Center in Susupe.

Larry Lee will serve as the class instructor for the entire eight weeks.

Each student must pay the $40 fee in advance or $20 every four weeks to be paid on April 12 and on May 10.

Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis and the class must have at least 20 students and a maximum of 40 students.

Students have to provide their own ukuleles and a folder, preferably a three-ring binder with plastic sheet protectors, to hold music sheets.

Parents and guardians are requested to sign a liability waiver form and are encouraged to adhere to public library policies and procedures.

To sign up or for more information, visit the public library, log in to www.cnmilibrary.com or call 235-7316, 7322 or 7323. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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Have you ever wanted to improve sales and marketing of your products or services?
Learn various practical ideas. Join the
Sales and Marketing Course
starting on April 5, 2012. Classes will be held on Thursdays at 6:P.M. and Saturdays at 9 A.M. to 10:30AM.

Class size is limited so make reservations now!
No fee to serious students.

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CUC needs $4M to complete major rehab of power plants

» Malae claims power production at 54MW; sufficient for now

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lack of funds is hindering the start of major repair work and rehabilitation at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plants, said executive director Abe Utu Malae yesterday.

Malae told *Saipan Tribune* that CUC needs about $4 million to complete repair and maintenance work of all its power plants on Saipan.

Of the amount, about $2.5 million will be from an American Reinvestment Recovery Act grant that will pay for radiators, while a portion will come from the anticipated $10 million loan guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he said.

"We have to manage our cash carefully. We have delayed any major repairs because of cash availability," Malae said.

He assured, though, that the current power production total of 54.7 megawatts is enough to meet Saipan's power needs for now.

Malae said that Saipan's peak power need is 35MW, therefore the 54.70MW is sufficient for now.

Malae

The island's current power demand is a slight decline from previous months' record of up to 57MW.

Saipan has three power plants in Lower Base with a total of 18 engines, but a few units are sidelined for repairs. Based on the power generation status report as of March 30, 13 engines are operational and five are non-operational.

Malae said that power plant 1 produces 41MW, power plant 2 has 4MW, and power plant 4 has 9.7MW.

In power plant 1, which has eight diesel engines, only one engine does not functioning as mechanical parts and materials have yet to arrive for repair work. This power plant produces a total of 41 MW—lower than the 71.70MW it is designed to produce.

Power plant 2 has four diesel engines and is supposed to produce 10MW. At the moment, it is producing only 4MW because two engine units are non-operational—one is down due to generator issue while the other unit needs exhaust smoke stacks repair.

Power plant 4 produces 9.70MW, slightly lower than 14.50MW it is designed to produce. Of its seven engines, two are down and need major overhaul and maintenance.

Because repair work on power plant 4 engines is ongoing, Malae said that all seven engines are expected to be operational in June this year.

Malae also cited processing delays for the holdups. He disclosed that just to correct small typographical errors can easily add a week to the process period.

"We are in a mad rush to beat the deadline, Aug. 30 [for project completion], but the subgrant agreement is wending its way through Capital Hill," said Malae, adding that CUC does not expect any major power problems or challenges so long as it meets the project deadlines.

DELEGATION SESSION HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), second from left, points to a document as he discusses a local bill with House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), seated, as Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) walks past them during the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation session on Thursday.

Rotary mostly done with dictionary distributions

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only third grade students from seven public elementary schools have yet to receive their free dictionaries from the Rotary Club of Saipan.

Rotary Vocational Service director Kelley Butcher said in an email yesterday that these remaining schools are William S. Reyes, Gregorio T. Camacho, Koblerville, Tanapag, San Vicente, Kagman, and Garapan elementary schools.

Butcher said the Rotary has already distributed the Webster's Paperback Dictionaries to Rota, Tinian, Dandan, San Antonio, and Oleai elementary schools.

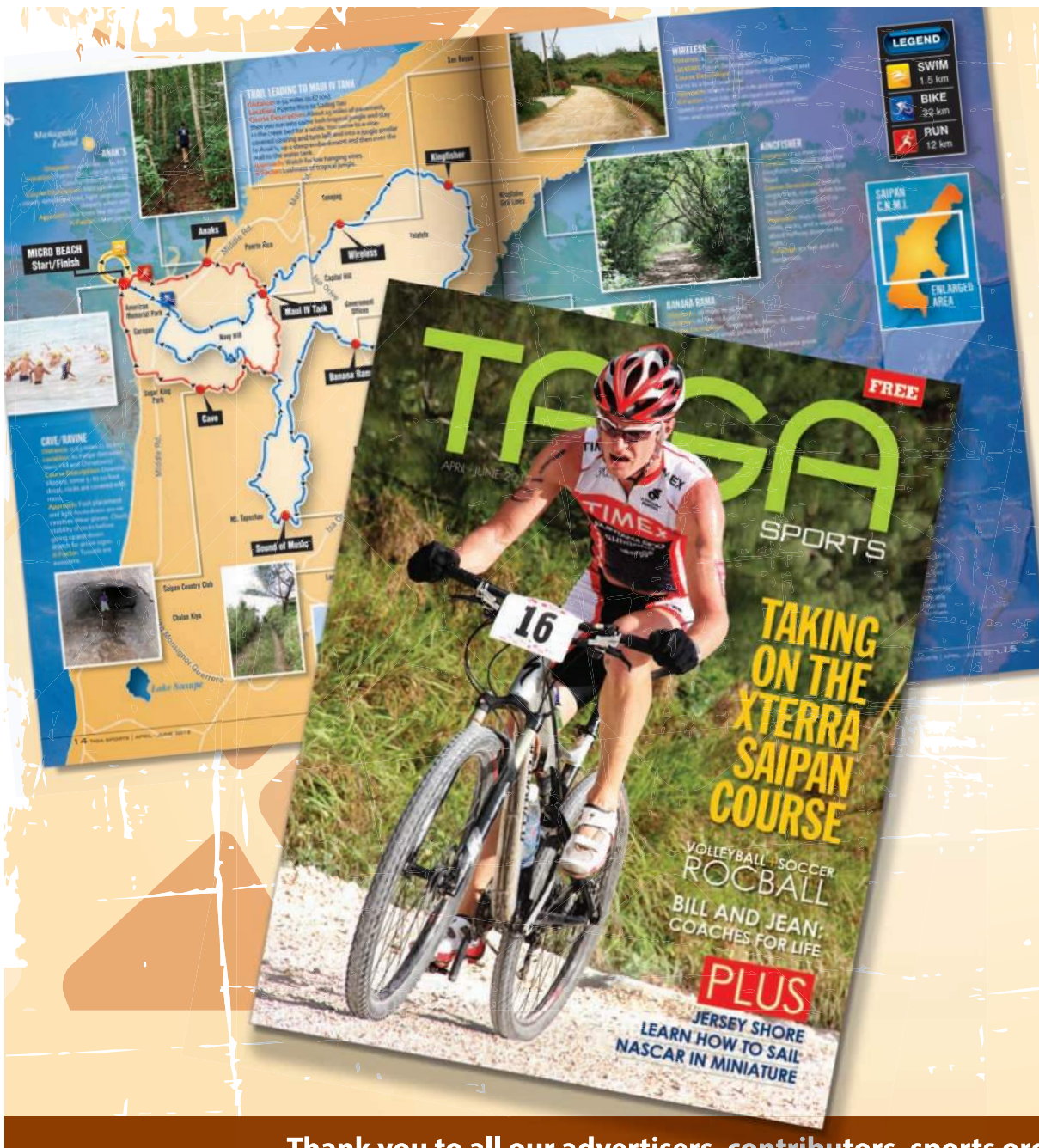
"We are excited that even though we had to reschedule most of the distribution dates, the dictionaries will now be handed out throughout April," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Butcher, who is also the legal counsel for the Public School System, said the dictionary distribution coincides with PSS' celebration of Library Month.

In line with this, Butcher said PSS is hosting several activities "to get kids excited about reading and visiting their libraries so the dictionaries tie in nicely with that."

"April is also the Rotary Parade of Books so this is great time for reading," added Butcher.

Rotary's dictionary project this year, which cost about $1,500, is made possible with the assistance of Delta Air Lines, the Rotary Club of Northern Guam with the "SoCal Dictionary Project" from the Rotary Club of Pacific Basin out of San Diego.



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Thank you to all our advertisers, contributors, sports organizations, and sports personalities.

Deadline nears for participation in Bridge Capital art contest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC is encouraging artists from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to submit their entries for the 3rd Annual CNMI Art Competition as the April 13 submission deadline draws near.

Administrative services manager Rowena Relado said in an interview that their office has been receiving a number of phone inquiries about the contest and several artists have already picked up forms at their office.

"We're expecting that all these inquiries will translate to actual submissions soon," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The annual art competition, aimed at promoting and supporting local artists, is open to CNMI residents who have been living in the islands for at least one year.

The contest has two categories: grades kindergarten through 12 and open category for artists 18 years or older. Artists must submit an original artwork that can be two- or three-dimensional, has a local or island theme, and should not be digitally enhanced or computer-generated.

For this year, the international investment banking and asset management company headquartered in the Commonwealth has partnered with the Arts Council to have the art competition coincide with the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

Art submissions will be accepted until 5pm of April 13 at the Bridge Capital building in Garapan. A panel of judges composed of government and business leaders will evaluate the entries from April 16 to 20.

Cash prizes and gift certificates await the winners under different categories, which will be announced during the opening ceremony of the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival on April 21.

With the art competition now on its third year, Relado said the contest has been given enough exposure, which hopefully would encourage more artists to join.

"Bridge Capital believes in the remarkable talents of our artists," said Relado. "We invite them to take part in the competition which endeavors to promote their works of art to the rest of the community."

For more information, call 322-2222 or email rowena@bccnmi.com.

Public invited to NMC's Annual Charter Day

The students, staff and faculty of the Northern Marianas College are inviting the entire CNMI to celebrate the College's Charter Day on May 4, 2012, at the As Terlaje campus from 4pm to 10pm.

NMC Charter Day is an annual celebration that commemorates the establishment of the college in 1981. It is one of the largest celebrations in the CNMI.

This year's event will feature great food and entertainment favorites such as Battle of the Bands and Marianas Idol, as well as new events like the Glee Competition.

There will also be other special performances and contests throughout the evening.

Agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations are invited to participate by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g. coffee coolers or pearl shakes), game booths, retail (arts and crafts, toys, etc.), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces is Thursday, May 3, 2012, by 4pm. Booth space is limited so applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

The booth fee is $150 with $25 of the fee refunded to the vendors upon cleanup of booth space post-event and passage of inspection from Charter Day officials. For NMC clubs and nonprofit organizations, booth fees are $75 and also include a $25 refund upon booth space cleanup and passage of inspection.

Applications forms are available for download at www.nmcnet.edu, or can be picked up from the NMC Student Center in Building J. For more information, contact L.J. Castro at 234-5498 ext. 1251/1253 or email luisjohnc@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Register today for pesticide applicator certification, exam

The Division of Environmental Quality will administer the Pesticide Applicator Examination on Monday, April 9, 2012, at 9 am.

Individuals wanting to become certified pesticide applicators must pass a written examination. Each exam is a written, closed-book examination consisting of 70 multiple-choice questions. Each candidate has up to two hours to complete the exam. The minimum passing score is 70 percent.

Examination includes but is not limited to: labeling; safety factors; environmental consequences; pest identification and characteristics; pesticide types, formulations and dilutions; equipment maintenance and calibration; proper storage, use, and disposal of pesticides and containers; pesticide application techniques; pesticide laws and regulations; recordkeeping; worker protection standards; and other relevant information as deemed necessary, including but not limited to new developments and other pertinent matters.

Exam categories are: Commercial Agriculture, Commercial Resort (Ornamental & Turf), Commercial Institutional (structural, health) and Private Agricultural. Candidates must register at least three work days prior to the scheduled examination. Candidates who submit incomplete registration forms will not be allowed to take the exam. Registration forms are available online at http://www.deq.gov.mp/article.aspx?secID=7&artID=175.

Who should register for the exam? Any person that uses insect or pest control products on plants, vegetables, fruits, or flowers; applies a weed-and-feed product to a client's lawn or spray for insects; uses insect or pest control products for the maintenance of resort grounds, golf courses, or greenhouses; applies pesticides to someone else' property; applies, purchases or distributes Restricted Use Pesticides; or applies pesticides in residences, schools, or public places must obtain certification to apply pesticides.

Exams are held on the second Monday of each month. For more information about the certification and exam requirements, contact Reina Camacho at 664-8512 or send an email to reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp. ***(DEQ)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

"This Notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"

April 3, 2012

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Marcie M. Tomokane, wish to announce that NMHC has revised its FY 2013 Annual Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Annual Plan encompasses the goals, objectives, and strategies of NMHC's Program and Housing Division and the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8). Comments may be directed to:

Mr. Jesse S. Palacios
Acting Corporate Director
NMHC Central Office
P.O. Box 500514
Saipan, MP 96950

Comments may also be faxed to (670) 234-9021. The Annual Plan is also available for public review and comment at NMHC's Central Office located on Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, as well as at the respective NMHC Field Offices on Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except on CNMI holidays. The deadline for the comment period is at 4:30 pm on Thursday, May 3, 2012.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Acting Corporate Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DOC-062

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 25, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CNMI PREMIUM RATE REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THRU THURSDAY EXCEPT CNMI HOLIDAYS)

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITED IN WRITING TO MR. JOHN S. BLANCO, CNMI'S RATE REVIEW PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR AT (670) 664-3067 OR E-MAIL TO cnmiratereview@commerce.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 12, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH

/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DOC-064

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 30, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ECONOMIC ADVISOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **MANDATORY** PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED ON **APRIL 12, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MARK RABAULIMAN, ECONOMIC AND LABOR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT COORDINATOR BY FAX TO (670) 664-3067 OR E-MAIL TO ta.elep@commerce.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 17, 2012.**

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INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD EDI-SP funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2012-EDI-005

"Repair & Renovation of the Roofing System for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library"

Proposal packets will be available on March 19, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **1:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, March 28, 2012,** at the proposed project site located in Susupe, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, March 29, 2012.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Economic Development Initiative Special Projects Grant (EDI-SP).

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

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INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2012-R-004

"ADA Compliance Retrofit of the Marianas Medical Referral Center (MMRC)"

Proposal packets will be available on March 19, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **9:00 a.m.** on **Wednesday, March 28, 2012,** at the proposed project site located in As Lito, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, March 29, 2012.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth that mandates ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE BUILDING/WORK MUST BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

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INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 AM

AMENDMENT #01 - NMHC IFB 2012-R-003

"CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER PATHWAY FOR SINAPALO CHILDREN'S PARK"

Proposal packets will be available on March 19, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager, at telephone numbers. (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Mr. Barrie C. Toves, Rota Field Office Representative, at (670) 532-9410. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **1:30 p.m.** on **Friday, March 30, 2012**, at the proposed project site located in Sinapalo, Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 10:30 a.m. local time, Friday, March 30, 2012.

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/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC RFP 2012-006

"Server Active Directory Design & Installation/Laserfiche Upgrade and Installation/Citrix Server Connection/Network Routing & Switching"

Proposal packets will be available on March 19, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on **Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 9:00AM** at NMHC conference office. Potential off-Island proposers may make arrangement to participate in meeting via phone, but are encouraged to attend in person if at all possible due to the anticipated detail and complexity involved in this RFP.

Question arising after this meeting must be addressed to Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email jskaipat@nmhcgov.net no later than **Friday, March 30, 2012.**

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 2011. This is a Federally Funded project, as such; Local Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Special meeting **Wednesday, April 04, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
   - A. Call to Order
   - B. Roll Call
   - C. Adoption of Agenda

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

III. **OLD BUSINESS**

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
   - A. Election of Officers
   - B. Legal Update in Case No. 03-0367, 09-0023, and 10-15427
   - C. Legal Strategies Moving Forward

V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

VI. **MISCELLANEOUS**
   - A. Other Related Matters
   - B. Next Meeting
   - C. Adjournment

/s/ BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Assateague partners with Saipan Coast Guard Auxiliary

Members of the Saipan Auxiliary Flotilla recently had an opportunity to climb aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* to train alongside their active duty counterparts.

Last year marked the re-establishment of the Saipan Flotilla in the CNMI, making it the newest full-fledged flotilla in the Pacific region.

Since its re-establishment, the flotilla's new memberships and training needs continue to grow.

"Auxiliarists serve as the resident experts of safe boating in their communities. This expertise starts with training our members first so they can apply these lessons learned in their interactions with the boating public [on] Saipan," said Dennis Chapla, Saipan flotilla commander.

Crew from the cutter *Assateague* spent the day with Saipan Auxiliarists training in boat handling, navigation, and other seamanship skills. This will be the first of many trips from Coast Guard units home ported in Guam to Saipan to assist the flotilla with their training needs.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the uniformed civilian all-volunteer component of Team Coast Guard, assists the active-duty Coast Guard in many of its varied missions. These men and women can be found on the nation's waterways, in the air, in classrooms, and on the dock, performing Maritime Domain Awareness patrols, safety patrols, vessel safety checks, and public education.

Its over 32,000 members contribute millions of hours annually in support of Coast Guard missions. Are you interested in joining or learning more about the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Saipan? Contact Dennis Chapla, Saipan Auxiliary flotilla commander at (671) 256-2005. ***(USCG)***

U.S. COAST GUARD/LT. LISA RODMAN

Ensign Jacob Clayton reviews the Auxiliary boat crew qualification requirements with members of the Saipan Flotilla. The process to become a boat crew member or coxswain of an Auxiliary boat is similar to the active duty Coast Guard standards and can take several months to complete.

High court largely sides with DPL in termination of JG Sablan permit

On Friday, March 30, 2012, the Commonwealth Supreme Court issued a ruling in *J.G. Sablan Rock Quarry, Inc. v. Department of Public Lands*, addressing the challenge by J.G. Sablan Rock Quarry Inc. to the Department of Public Lands' termination of a permit to mine pozzolan and basalt on the northern island of Pagan.

The permit at issue was issued to Sablan in 1995 by the Marianas Public Land Corp. In 2004, Commissioner Henry Hofschneider of the Marianas Public Lands Authority issued a notice of violation to Sablan, which detailed numerous alleged violations of the mining permit. The notice of violation provided Sablan 60 days to cure the violations and gave Sablan an opportunity to request a hearing regarding the violations within 60 days of receiving the notice. Although Sablan attempted to have the notice of violation withdrawn, MPLA did not withdraw the notice prior to the agency's abolition.

In May 2006, Secretary John S. DelRosario of the newly created DPL issued a notice of termination of the mining permit. This notice of termination listed several grounds for termination, including: (1) failure to generate revenue; (2) failure to provide DPL with a development plan for Sablan's proposed mining activities; (3) "conducting, or seeking to conduct, mining and related activities in areas of Pagan not covered by the permit"; and (4) failure to pay royalties owed under a previous mining permit totaling $345,914.17. DelRosario presided over a reconsideration hearing regarding the mining permit and ultimately affirmed DPL's termination of the mining permit.

On appeal, the Supreme Court analyzed the fairness of the procedures afforded to Sablan by DPL under the Commonwealth Constitution, the Commonwealth Administrative Procedure Act, and the terms of the mining permit. The high court held that prior to terminating the mining permit, DPL was required by all three sources of law to provide Sablan with notice of the alleged violations of the permit. Because of this holding, the court reversed the trial court's finding that Sablan had received adequate notice regarding an alleged failure to generate revenue because Sablan did not receive notice regarding this ground for termination until the day that DPL terminated the permit. As for the other three grounds for termination on appeal, the high court held that DPL provided adequate pre-termination notice through the 2004 notice of violation issued by the MPLA.

The high court then reviewed the merits of DPL's termination decision. The court upheld DPL's decision to revoke the mining permit on two grounds: (1) Sablan's failure to submit a detailed development plan; and (2) Sablan's failure to pay royalties owed under the previous mining permit. Regarding the development plan, the high court noted that the only evidence in the record was a table of contents submitted by Sablan at the reconsideration hearing that purported to be the table of contents for a development plan Sablan had previously submitted to DPL. Since neither party could produce the development plan, the high court upheld DelRosario's determination that Sablan's testimony lacked credibility and that no development plan had ever been submitted.

As for the failure to pay royalties, Sablan argued that it had received an oral agreement to defer payment of the royalties. The high court upheld DelRosario's decision that, since there was no evidence apart from self-serving testimony from Sablan of any deferral agreement, no deferral agreement existed and this constituted a ground to terminate the permit.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *J.G. Sablan Rock Quarry, Inc. v. Department of Public Lands*, 2012 MP 2, and can be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme_12.htm. ***(CNMI Judiciary)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MIFICPA to induct new officers

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, or MIFICPA, would like to announce that membership and renewal fees for existing members are free for this year. All Filipino accountants are encouraged to join MIFICPA.

The induction of officers and board of directors is on April 28, 2012 at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club at 6pm. Tickets are available at $20 each. Attire is formal.

For more information and membership form, contact Noli Santos, (president) at 285-6810 (nolsantos@yahoo.com) or the following officers: Aileen Indino (287-0305, aileenrindino@yahoo.com); Butch Ordas (789-9276, butchordas@yahoo.com); Robert Reyes (789-6498, robert2reyes@gmail.com). You may also download membership forms from our Facebook account. ***(MIFICPA)***

Cat for adoption

Anyone want a lovable, cuddly, healthy, beautiful, black cat with beautiful, green eyes or know anyone who does? Spayed and shots already, indoor and outdoor. Her name is Pebblz. Pamela Thorpe (pamela48mierau@yahoo.com) will be interviewing prospective owners in June, so sign up now.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 3, 2002

US envoys pledge to help promote NMI

A senior lawmaker's efforts to promote the Commonwealth as a tourism and investment destination has borne fruit, after securing the commitment of American embassies in Japan and South Korea in helping the CNMI promote itself in these countries. In letters addressed to Rep. William S. Torres, U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo Howard H. Baker Jr. and U.S. Ambassador to Seoul Thomas C. Hubbard both pledged to use the ample resources of their respective embassies in promoting the CNMI as part of tourism and investment efforts for the United States. In his letter to Torres, Baker said he has already instructed the embassy's Commercial Section-which has an active tourism promotion program-to work with the Marianas Visitors Authority to promote increased Japanese travel to the Commonwealth.

Bill seeks to slash board, commission seats

Coming on the heels of other cost-cutting measures, Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano has introduced a measure that would uniformly reduce the number of members of all boards and commissions in the Commonwealth to just five, with terms that would expire with the term of the appointing governor. Although compensation for meetings attended would be increased, Adriano said his bill, Senate Bill 13-42, would effectively reduce the operational cost of all boards and commissions in the Commonwealth. "In light of the dwindling financial resources of the CNMI government, it is necessary to reduce costs while maintaining the delivery of essential services to the public," he said yesterday.

April 3, 2003

Proponents fine-tune drag racing bill

Legislators are fine-tuning a bill seeking to legalize drag racing in the Northern Marianas, as part of efforts to ensure the safety of both the racers and the spectators, according to Saipan Rep. Martin B. Ada.In an interview, Ada disclosed that proponents of House Bill 13-256 are scrutinizing every aspect of the drag racing legalization plan, noting that safety is on top of their list of priorities. Also, the congressman said that they are addressing some of the concerns raised about the plan, including environmental and land use issues. He added that they are also checking with the Historical Preservation Office to be sure that the land area, which will be used for the activity, does not have historical value.

SEDC: Summer start for pedestrian mall

With the near-completion of design plans for The Promenade, the $2.8 million pedestrian mall in Garapan, the Strategic Economic Development Council is anticipating an early summer groundbreaking for the project that will help stimulate the local construction economy and give a much-needed facelift to Saipan's main tourist district. At its monthly meeting earlier last week, SEDC Chairman and Governor's Special Assistant for Capital Improvement Project Management Chuck Jordan projected a 12-14 month construction period for the project, which the Council hopes to open at the same time as the American Memorial Park Visitors Center in June 2004.

April 3, 2004

CRMO suspends quarry permit

The Coastal Resources Management Office has temporarily stopped quarry operations on Capitol Hill, saying they have caused adverse public safety and environmental impacts that include cracks on building structures and soil. CRMO director Joaquin D. Salas issued a cease and desist order to Solid Builders' Ben Fejeran. Salas said CRMO's enforcement officers noted the impacts in a recent site inspection. "The findings of the site inspection show that the cracks on the interior floor of the nearby homes, cracks on the walls, cracks on the walkways and the separation of the walkways from the building structures have increased in width in addition to new cracks on the soil," Salas said.

House lauds Guerrero

House Rep. Timothy Villagomez paid tribute to Guam Business magazine's Executive of the Year Juan "Pan" T. Deleon Guerrero during a brief ceremony Thursday at the lower house. Villagomez handed Guerrero a plaque of recognition for his untiring sense of community spirit and his involvement in the business community. "Whether he is sitting behind his desk running his many businesses, hacking away on some golf course or selling tickets for the American Red Cross Club 200, Juan never looks tired. He seems to be always ready to tackle new challenges, take on a new adventure," the representative said.

Island Snapshots

LITTLE LEGALS
The Little Legals scored their second victory Sunday with an 11-2 win over the San Vicente A's.
RAINBOW COLOR/ CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FAMILY FAIR
The Division of Youth Services was among the various government agencies and other organizations that set up a booth at the 2nd Annual Family Fair event hosted by the CNMI Women's Association last March 31.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

UNDEFEATED
Undefeated in the NMIFA Men's League, the Wild Bill's Flamers pose before defeating their rival Godfather's last Sunday.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WEDDED BLISS
Belated happy anniversary to 'Pumpkins' Beau and Lucilie Tomokane, who celebrated their third year of marriage yesterday. May you continue to have a blissful married life! With love from your family and friends.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings go out to Lena "GaGa" Wabol! Shots, shots, shots! With love from your NMC Proa Music Society buddies!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to Scotty "Dotty" Borja! Party rock! With love from your NMC Proa Music Society comrades!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GO HOPWOOD!
Members of Team Hilitai pose for a picture at a softball game held at the Capital Hill baseball field over the weekend.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

New report forecasts deepening inequalities

By BILL FLETCHER JR.
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

As the Trayvon Martin case illustrates, we still have a hard time dealing with issues of race in this country. In the years ahead, the issue of racial injustice, coupled with economic injustice, is not likely to fade away.

The Census Bureau estimates that by 2042, the population will no longer be majority white. Many believe that this demographic shift will automatically bring with it a qualitative improvement in the situation for people of color.

At the other end of the spectrum, there is a segment of white America that deeply fears the demographic changes and sees in them a threat to its status. Such fears lead some of these people to gravitate towards right-wing populism.

But the demographic changes are not expected to bring about any significant improvements for most people of color, particularly African-Americans and Latinos, according to a new study, "State of the Dream 2012: The Emerging Majority," by the Boston-based United for a Fair Economy.

If current trends continue, we will witness widening gaps in income and wealth, as well as in education and incarceration rates. The study predicts, for instance, that African-Americans will make 61 cents and Latinos will make 45 cents for every dollar whites make in terms of median family income.

Contrary to right-wing populists' "dystopia for whites," the report paints a picture of a reconfigured Jim Crow—almost an apartheid situation of haves and have-nots.

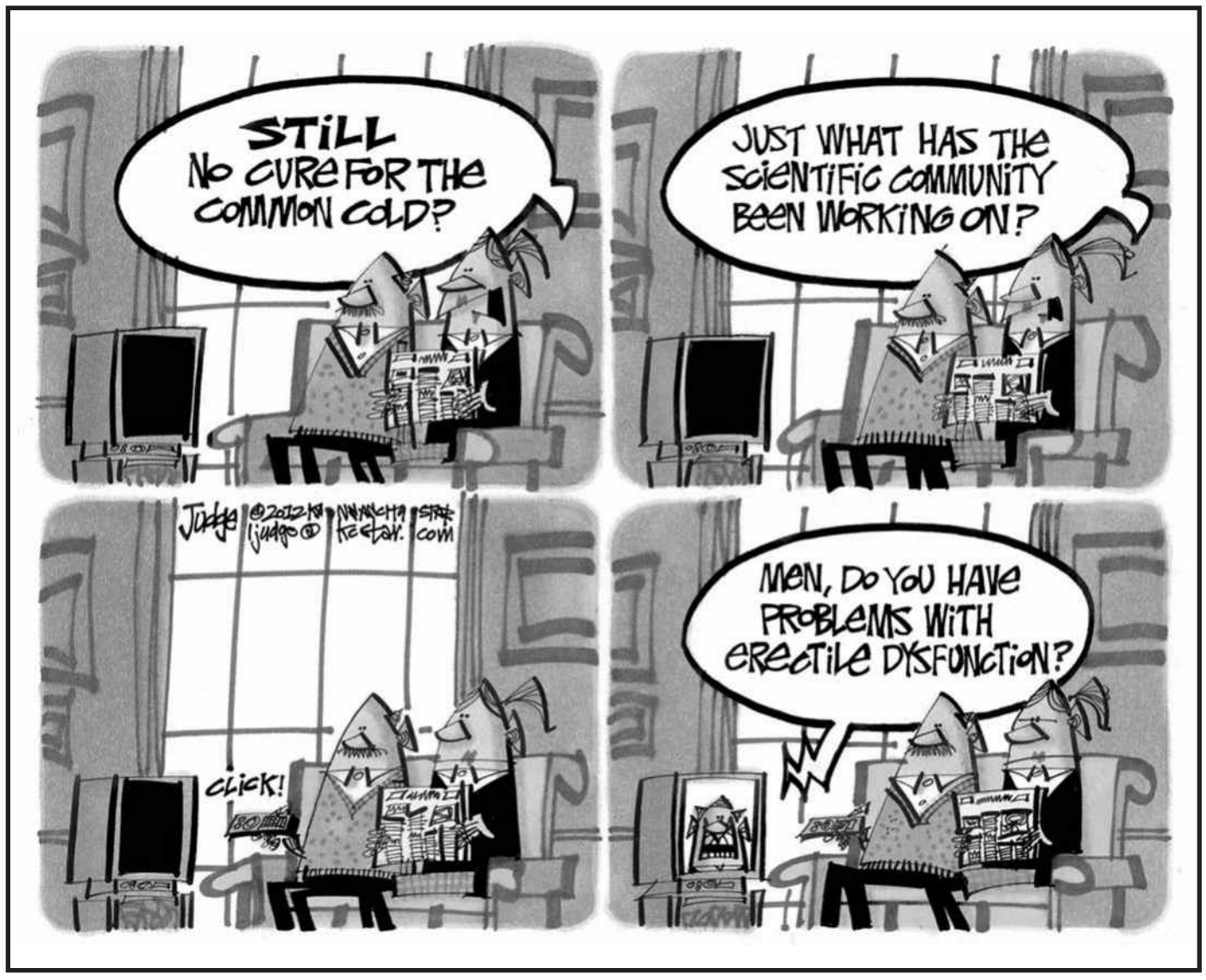
Most whites won't be benefiting, either. The overall living standard of most of this country, which began to decline in the mid-1970s, will continue to decline. The fates of poor and middle-class whites will be much more connected to those of people of color than to the very rich and largely white ruling elite.

The implications of this report are sobering—even frightening.

We need concerted political and economic action in the days and months and years ahead if we are to conquer our racial and economic disparities. That means not just continuing affirmative action. It also means launching policies of redistributive justice.

Let's face it: Those at the top have been redistributing income and wealth their way over the past three decades. If we don't implement policies that redistribute income and wealth to the vast majority of Americans who need it, our country will become increasingly—and dangerously—divided.

Bill Fletcher Jr. is a senior scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies, the immediate past president of TransAfrica Forum, and the co-author of Solidarity Divided. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.


STILL NO CURE FOR THE COMMON COLD?
JUST WHAT HAS THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY BEEN WORKING ON?
JUDGE
MEN, DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION?
CLICK!

Each one cares for two

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Two coins in one basket mark Yoshua Ibn Nazareth's last visit to Jerusalem by Mark of the first Gospel account, two generations later. The first marker is the poor fig tree that gets cursed for not bearing fruit, and the second the indignation over the moneychangers in the Temple for living off financial instruments at the expense of those who really labor to earn their dinars and shekels. Making profit out of the exchange of currencies is what financial institutions do, creating illusory phantom wealth, but nevertheless, exercising actual power and influence!

The conservative impulse to condemn unproductivity of individuals, not so much because it is suicidal not to care for one's self as that it puts the onus of social responsibility to create social nets to save "laziness" and "failure" in the hands of the wealthy ones and publicly mandated societal institutions, has just passed the House in its intent to privatize Medicare and Medicaid, among others. Deeply ingrained is a deep distrust over the genuine accountability of public structures, a repulsive presumption but held widely and regrettably, with seemingly good reasons.

The so-called economic liberalization adheres to the mythology of the "invisible hand" of the market that guides well the destinies of social capital if left unfettered by regulatory interference. The Chicago boys have shown evangelical seal in promoting this gospel, and its short-term effect lauded in the streets of Santiago under Pinochet is much heralded amongst economic theorists.

Bill Clinton, a popular and high-approval rating 42nd U.S. President, noted for his first political campaign with the slogan *"the economy, stupid,"* proceeded upon assumption of office to leave the financial giants and the stock market alone to its devices, leaving the accountants' ledger with surplus after he left office, but alas most of it illusory that did not hold water when squandered by the younger Bush's wars of adventure.

Holy Week in Christendom is a time of meditation (learning from memory and recall), contemplation (being radically and affirmatively present to the present), and prayer (actively wedging one's being in the reformulation of the future, by the GoG, but over my dead body, as it were). Our time sure requires a lot of praying, not of the kind where we sit in the comfort of cushioned *dagans* but in the liturgical sense of throwing one's body in the barb wires of history.

One of my teaching colleagues in the U.S. eastern seaboard promotes a program that invites each reading learner to teach two. As a pedagogical tool, learning a subject is best accomplished when taught, so learners seek not only a learning partner but another object of pedagogy as well. Learning is thus reinforced, at least three times!

We borrow this image in our prayerful stance this Holy Week for what happens in the practical import of "each one cares for two." In China with the urban single child policy, we witnessed two parents doting on one "little emperor," and the society is now awakening to the rapid graying of its population into senior citizens' wards, so the scramble is on at the governmental level for an adequate response to an unprecedented phenomenon and the unusual increase of cases of parents taking their children to court for filial neglect!

This is beyond the usual injunction of "loving one another." It is an invitation for everyone to consciously and freely decide to be a support structure of two other beings, whether it be physically, emotionally, mentally or institutionally.

We foist this picture particularly among those who consider themselves followers of one who dared confront the powers-that-be in his time. The medieval interpretation of that act tended to be a substitutionary one, of the innocent liege lord taking the place of a convicted "sinner" deprived of the empires' feast until properly "saved," with all the romanticism and sentimentality in the telling.

The ancient one is really about an ordinary guy who in effect said to his enrobed contemporaries and peers in Jerusalem, "You are waiting for the Messiah, an Elijah to deliver you from the rule of the Romans. Well, I have good news for you. No one is coming, and I who tell you that truth is the only Messiah you will ever get. So, you want to get well? Roll up your sleeves, pick up your life and walk!" Those with the faith to see and saw the truth let Yoshua *aka* Yohoshua and Iesu earn the appellation of *Kristo Rai*.

Unfortunately, in the retelling of the Passion of the Christ story, like Mel Gibson's movie and the Oberammergau Passion Play, it is stuck in the medieval retelling and ecclesiastical orthodoxy requires faithfulness to the old form rather than the function.

Back to the fig tree and the moneychangers, or, if we were given liberty to restate, the entitled perennially dependent on the dole, on the one hand, or the rapacious usurer and speculative investor, on the other, are properly condemned options. Caring for two, beyond the self-centered replacement of one's self, is an offered option, a rather very Christian one, if we may add, and that's the caring-for-two path, and my invitation to others this way this week.

Let us meditate. Let us contemplate. Let us earnestly pray!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

ISLAND VIEWS

Editor's Note: The following essay and mini-essays are written by the students of Mrs. G. C. Borja-Robinson's writing classes at the Northern Marianas College.The views expressed are solely those of the students.

Three kinds of friends

By CRYSTAL BENAVENTE

Do you have many friends? Does each friend treat you the same way? A friend does not always seem to be what he or she appears to be. It takes time to truly know a person. Often we are not sure whether we really know a friend. For me, there are three types of friends: a true friend, a friendly friend, and the person who pretends to be your friend.

As a 19-year-old, I believe a true friend is someone who proves himself or herself to be a good role model for you. A true friend honestly tells you when something you did is wrong and helps you make it right. A true friend is someone who gives you his or her full attention when you need it. A true friend is also someone who tells you things with honesty and love and will not offend you.

A friendly friend is someone who has a positive attitude toward you at all times. A friendly friend is a person who is considerate of you. He or she makes time for you whenever you need to talk to him or her and will not speak negative of you. A friendly friend is a person who simply has a patient heart toward you.

A pretend friend is the third type. He or she is a person who appears to be loving at first but really has an animosity toward you. A pretend friend will avoid a situation where he or she has to help you with a problem. Such a friend acts as if he or she really listens to your problem(s), but will turn his or her back on you with no support.

We have to be careful when we meet these three types of friends. We must learn how to deal with these different friends, especially when we share our personal thoughts and problems. Most importantly, we all need true, genuine friends for support.

How to shop economically

By YUN HEE LEE

Have you ever shopped and spent more money than you planned? There is a way to save money while shopping. First, you must make a shopping list. Next, buy only those items that are on the list. Third, after shopping check that the items you bought were on your shopping list.

First, you have to make a shopping list if you want to save money. Write down only items that are necessary for you and your family. You should write the reason you want to buy an item and the number of things you need. If you are a mother and your children are young, also have your children write their shopping lists. Before going shopping, you should check your children's shopping lists. Children tend to want new and fashionable things that are often unnecessary. Making a shopping list will keep you from buying unnecessary things.

Second, buy only those items that are on the list. If you want to do economical shopping, don't look around the entire market! There will be many fascinating and brand new products and they are displayed in a fantastic way to be sold. They may affect your moneybag. Limit your shopping to only necessary things and it will protect you from the temptation.

When you get home, check that the items you bought were on your shopping list. If something you bought was not on your shopping list, ask yourself why you bought the thing. After you determine the reason, you should try in the future not to buy something for the same reason. Make a record of how successful you were and how much you bought that was unnecessary. Checking your shopping purchases after shopping will help you to shop economically the next time.

Shopping economically is a process that takes time. It can be done, however, if you plan ahead. Make a shopping list and buy only those items on your list. You will save money if you follow the steps I have suggested.

Jogging

By HEIRSZAN MARTINEZ

Do you like to jog? Since I joined the Northern Marianas College Reserve Officers Training Corps, jogging has become the best exercise for me. Other ROTC members and I jog when we meet our instructor at the American Memorial Park. From AMP, we jog all the way to the Army Base in Puerto Rico and back. The ROTC exercise program depends on one's age. For example, I am 21 years old and I have to jog two miles in 13 minutes. The last time I ran, my time was 25 minutes, so I took almost twice the time I was supposed to finish. So I have made a promise to myself to jog everyday to pick up my speed. If I stay committed to my promise, maybe I will be able to finish the next two-mile run on time. To some people, jogging may be a boring thing to do but for me it is not boring. I want to join the Army someday so jogging will help me achieve my fitness goal. Jogging makes my legs feel like they have been stung by millions of bees. After I jog for several minutes, I eventually get used to the pain. Jogging is good for leg strength and weight loss. If you want to stay fit, go out and spend a couple of minutes jogging. Later on you will see improvement with your endurance and body weight.

Golf

By HAN JEON

For several years, I used to play golf on Saipan. I believe there are many advantages to playing golf on Saipan. First, golf fees are not as expensive as in Korea. Those fees may include golf lesson fee, playing on the golf course, and other fees. Golf players on Saipan also do not have to drive more than 30 minutes to reach a golf course. Another attraction of Saipan's golf courses include beautiful tropical views of the blue sky, the blue ocean, green plants, and well trimmed playing fields. Additionally, cool breezes are always present. Such tropical beauty is hard to explain with words if you have not experienced playing golf on Saipan. If you want to play golf, I recommend you go early in the morning. You will enjoy the tropical beauty and cool air, and you will not feel so tired after playing. Viewing the vast golf course and the ocean also will improve your vision and heal your exhausted mind. Playing golf requires a lot of energy so players have to eat before they play and drink water often while playing. This will help you maintain good health. A golf player walks a lot on the golf course and stretches many muscles. Most of Saipan's golf courses do not allow players to go into the fields with their golf carts to look for lost balls. So players must walk far to find a lost ball (s). So playing golf involves much exercise. Thanks to golf, I lost weight, and I had memorable moments with other players and the golf instructor. Playing golf not only requires swinging the golf club and hitting the ball, it also requires strong endurance, concentration, and physical strength. As a fun sport, golf also encourages friendships among players. Players often keep in touch with each other to play golf. Golfers play for fun, good health, and friendship.

Letters to the Editor

Give NMDs a reason to stay

Recently an individual expressed sentiments strongly opposing the repeal of Article 12. I believe there is a real fear factor that as stated in the letter to the editor: "If Article 12 is abolished, allowing non-NMDs to buy our land, where will we NMDs go? Will we be reduced to a wandering people, without land, and without a home?" This seems to imply that if Article 12 is abolished, all our land will be sold to non-NMDs. Is this true? (Are we really saying that after 25 years we are still unprepared, uneducated, and unable to make our own decisions about our personal property?)

I would like to offer my thoughts to those who may share the same concern. The Citizens for Change of Article 12 researched the percentage of land in the Northern Mariana Islands that is private land. Only about 22 percent of the land in the CNMI is privately owned. This means that approximately 78 percent belongs to the government or to the people of the CNMI. Repealing Article 12 will not mean that we will lose "the only home we've ever known."

Of the 22 percent of privately owned land in the CNMI I am certain that not all the landowners would even consider selling their land. Thus Article 12 affects a relatively small percentage of the total land area in the CNMI. Again, repealing Article 12 will not force anyone to sell their land. This is important for all of us to remember. NMD landowners who want to keep their land in their family will do so. NMD landowners who would rather sell to another NMD will do so. What is important is that private landowners will have the freedom to decide what they want to do with their personal possession—their land.

As the president of Citizens for Change of Article 12, I would like to emphasize that our group has studied and discussed Article 12 for a very long time. We are comprised of locals who care deeply about the CNMI. At one of our meetings a guest brought out a very important point, which is that if we really want to keep our people here (and people are the culture) then we must give them something to want to make them stay here such as jobs and opportunities. Many locals have left our islands and they will continue to do so, not because they don't have land but because they don't have opportunities. In a sense NMDs will become "a wandering people" seeking a better life elsewhere.

Let's repeal Article 12, welcome investors, and allow private landowners to decide for themselves what they want to do with their land.

I welcome comments and concerns from the community regarding Article 12.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

Property taxes

The only way to channel the plight of the Retirement Fund problem into a course of action that will lead to solutions is to jerk the dormant mentality of the major players in government. If the casino industry is out of the question, then we should think about property taxes as the panacea that will help the government pay its employer's contribution to the Retirement Fund. The question is, who in the ruling class of this government with the fortitude to take this route to fruition? Property tax is a major revenue source for state or local government jurisdictions. Why is the CNMI government dismissing this important revenue source? Let the discussion begin and start from there. Someone has to pay for the government's existence.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Threat of Fund receivership inevitable due to legislative inaction?

Dear current and future retirees: Few of us seem aware of Judge Govendo's recent Superior Court order written on March 19, 2012.

Citing the imminent collapse of the Fund and the need to save it, Govendo gave the Legislature and the board of trustees until June 15 to come up with a satisfactory agreed-upon plan to save it.

Should the proposals be unsatisfactory, Govendo writes that he will hear petitions for receivership to be filed on June 29.

Among the many proposals already reviewed and brought to attention at the March 13 and 14 hearing:

- Capping at $50,000 the maximum threshold for pension benefits.
- Various tax increases, bond proposals
- Allowing prime land and golf courses to be leased up to 99 years with lease proceeds going to the Fund (To see other proposals go the Web to "CNMI Retiree Blog")

Govendo writes that many of proposals are sound; however, given the demise of the Fund imminent, steps must be taken immediately.

Why receivership if many proposals are sound? The key phrase here is "agreed-upon." Though many fixes are doable the challenge appears to be getting everyone to agree to it.

And what is receivership anyway? Wikipedia's definition: In law, receivership is the situation in which an institution or enterprise is being held by a receiver, a person "placed in the custodial responsibility for the property of others, including tangible and intangible assets and rights."[1] The receivership remedy is an equitable remedy that emerged in the English Chancery courts, where receivers were appointed to protect real property. Receiverships are also a remedy of last resort in litigation involving the conduct of executive agencies that fail to comply with constitutional or statutory obligations to populations that rely on those agencies for their basic human rights. The receiver may run the company in order to maximize the value of the company's assets, sell the company as a whole, or sell part of the company and close unprofitable divisions.

If there was ever a time to stand up and make your voice count, now is the time. There are solutions that will make your retirement last without having to resort to receivership.

The Legislature is the only body working in tandem with the board of trustees who can create real laws and amendments to save your retirement.

Just go to their website, http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp/, click on HOUSE or SENATE then MEMBERS. Just click their names to send an email.

Mark Staal
As Matuis, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

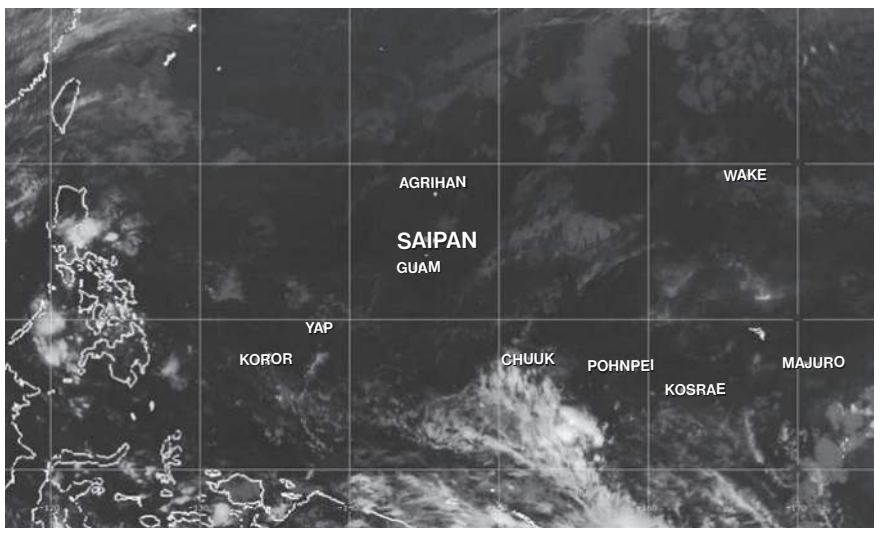
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲91	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲70	▼66
Beijing	Sunny	▲63	▼39
Hong Kong	Showers	▲72	▼69
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼70
London	Showers	▲47	▼36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲72	▼56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼71
New York	Sunny	▲62	▼48
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼44
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼39
Pusan	Windy	▲60	▼41
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼53
Salem	Showers	▲48	▼37
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼49
Seoul	Sunny	▲54	▼35
Tokyo	Sunny	▲56	▼43
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲68	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts across the northwest corner of the discussion area from 25N146E to 20N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this feature. A shear line extends southwestward from 20N180 to end southeast of Guam at 11N150E. Patchy clouds and showers are present along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from near Mindanao through 4N130E to end south of Pohnpei at EQ160E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis south of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 2N148E to 5N152E to 1N159E. Similar weather is also seen south of Kosrae between the equator and 4N from 160E to 165E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Majuro but over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls or east of a line from 2N172E to 8N179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
5:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:02 PM	2:58 AM
Wednesday	3:59 PM	3:43 AM
Thursday	4:57 PM	4:28 AM
Friday	5:57 PM	5:14 AM
Saturday	7:00 PM	6:03 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Airlines did a better job for passengers in 2011

Airline performance improved last year as judged by four measures—passengers who endured lost bags, delayed flights, lousy service or bumpings from full flights, according to an annual report to be released Monday.

The report was compiled by Wichita State University business professor Dean Headley in Kansas and Perdue University aviation technology professor Brent Bowen in Indiana. It is based on 2011 data submitted to the Department of Transportation by nation's 15 largest airlines.

On-time performance

Industry average, 80 percent of flight on-time

1. Hawaii Airlines, 92.8
2. Alaska Airlines, 88.2
3. AirTran Airways, 84.4
4. Mesa Airlines, 83.7
5. Delta Air Lines, 82.3
6. Southwest Airlines, 81.3
7. United Airlines, 80.2
8. US Airways, 79.8
9. SkyWest Airlines, 79.3
10. Frontier Airlines, 79.2
11. American Airlines, 77.8
12. Continental Airlines, 77.1
13. American Eagle, 76.3
14. Atlantic Southeast Airlines, 75.2
15. JetBlue Airways, 73.3

Passengers bumped from flight

Industry average, 0.78 denied boarding per 10,000 passengers

1. JetBlue, 0.01
2. Hawaiian, 0.11
3. Delta, 0.31
4. AirTran, 0.57
5. Southwest, 0.65
6. SkyWest, 0.68
7. Alaska, 0.82
8. Atlantic Southeast, 0.91
9. American, 0.92
10. US Airways, 0.94
11. Frontier, 0.97
12. United, 1.01
13. Continental, 1.49
14. American Eagle, 2.24
15. Mesa, 2.27

Lost or mishandled bags

Industry average, 3.35 percent per 1,000 passengers

1. AirTran, 1.63
2. Frontier, 2.21
2) JetBlue, 2.21
4) Hawaiian, 2.63
5) Delta, 2.66
6) US Airways, 2.70
7) Alaska, 2.87
8) Continental, 3.35
9) American, 3.55
10) Southwest, 3.65
11) United, 3.66
12) SkyWest, 4.13
13) Mesa, 4.87
14) Atlantic Southeast, 5.52
15) American Eagle, 7.32

Consumer complaints submitted to the Department of Transportation

Industry average, 1.19 complaints per 100,000 passengers

1. Southwest, 0.32
2. Alaska, 0.48
3. Mesa, 0.62
4. Hawaiian, 0.70
5. AirTran, 0.72
6. SkyWest, 0.73
7. Frontier, 0.76
8. Atlantic Southeast, 0.88
9. JetBlue, 1.08
10. Delta, 1.23
11. American Eagle, 1.45
12. American, 1.46
13. Continental, 1.81
14. US Airways, 1.91
15. United, 2.21

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tribune Broadcasting: No deal reached with DirecTV

NEW YORK (AP)—DirecTV Inc. subscribers in 19 U.S. markets have lost access to certain programming, after Tribune Broadcasting said it failed to reach a settlement with the satellite television provider in their contract negotiations. Tribune Broadcasting said late Saturday in a statement that without a deal in place, DirecTV was barred by federal law from carrying the signal of Tribune's local television stations after midnight, when their agreement expired. The affected markets include New York, Chicago, New Orleans and Philadelphia. Customers could lose TV programs including "American Idol," "Gossip Girl," and Major League Baseball, depending on who owns local affiliates that carry the shows.

Temporary outage of Visa card network Sunday

WASHINGTON (AP)—A technical problem affecting the Visa network barred some people around the United States from using their credit and debit cards for about 45 minutes on Sunday, the company said. The outage was caused by a recent update Visa has made to its system, said Visa Inc. spokeswoman Sandra Chu. She said Visa had trouble processing some transactions as a result, but the system is operating normally now. Chu said the problem Sunday was unrelated to the security breach potentially affecting Visa and MasterCard customers that was reported Friday by credit card processor Global Payments Inc.

Feds investigating fire reports in Cruze, Wrangler

DETROIT (AP)—The government said Sunday it is investigating reports of engine fires in the Chevrolet Cruze small car and Jeep Wrangler SUV. The fires haven't caused any injuries but have destroyed at least six vehicles. NHTSA is investigating the 2011 model year Cruze and the 2010 model year Wrangler. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received two reports of fires in the 2011 Cruze. In both cases, owners reported that the fires began while the cars were moving, and in both cases the cars were destroyed.

Guam fiduciaries earn accredited investment fiduciary designation

BRIDGEVILLE, Pennsylvania—Seven individuals in Guam have recently been awarded the Accredited Investment Fiduciary® (AIF®) designation from the Center for Fiduciary Studies™ (the Center), the standards-setting body for fi3601.

The AIF designation signifies specialized knowledge of fiduciary responsibility and the ability to implement policies and procedures that meet a defined standard of care. The designation is the culmination of a rigorous training program, which includes a comprehensive, closed-book final examination under the supervision of a proctor, and agreement to abide by the AIF Code of Ethics. On an ongoing basis, Designees are required to complete continuing education to maintain the AIF Designation.

The first-ever Asia based Fi360 training was sponsored by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS), and held prior to APAFS's 11th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila in October 2011.

The training was attended by twenty five individuals from throughout Micronesia and the Philippines. The individuals from Guam who were awarded the AIF® designation were:

1. Donald Clark, ASC Trust Company
2. Gerard Cruz, Member, Gov Guam Employees Retirement Fund Board of Trustees
3. Gabrielle Bamba, ASC Trust Company
4. Oscar Miyashita, CPA, PC
5. Sandra McKeever, Asia Pacific Financial Management Group
6. Brian Matananr, ASC Trust Company
7. Mark Mendiola, Executive Director, UOG Endowment Foundation

Fi360 will be holding the next Accredited Investment Fiduciary® training immediately prior to the 12th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila Philippines, being held on November 29 and 30, 2012. Daniel Roland, CIMA, AIFA, APAFS executive director says "we are excited about once again hosting this prestigious, and badly needed, fiduciary training certification course once again. The response to the first course was truly overwhelming. Demand is already high for this year's training, and as we can only accommodate 25 participants, I would encourage interested individuals to email us immediately at executivedirector@apafs.org."

Fi360, based near Pittsburgh, Pa., is the first full-time training and research facility for fiduciaries, and conducts training programs at universities throughout the United States and abroad. As part of fi360, the Center confers the AIF Designation as well as the Accredited Investment Fiduciary Analyst™ (AIFA®) Designation. AIFA Designees are the only recognized professionals trained to perform fiduciary assessments, which measure how well investment professionals are fulfilling the fiduciary duties required of them by the applicable investment legislation, case law, and regulatory opinion letters. ***(PR)***

APAFS

From left, Donald Clark, ASC Trust Co.; Gerard Cruz, member, GovGuam Employees Retirement Fund board of trustees; Gabrielle Bamba, ASC Trust Co.; Oscar Miyashita, CPA, PC; Sandra McKeever, Asia Pacific Financial Management Group; Brian Matananr, ASC Trust Co.; Mark Mendiola, executive director, UOG Endowment Foundation.

Obama's insurance requirement not the only mandate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The individual insurance requirement that the Supreme Court is reviewing isn't the first federal mandate involving health care.

There's a Medicare payroll tax on workers and employers, for example, and a requirement that hospitals provide free emergency services to indigents. Health care is full of government dictates, some arguably more intrusive than President Barack Obama's overhaul law.

It's a wrinkle that has caught the attention of the justices.

Most of the mandates apply to providers such as hospitals and insurers. For example, a 1990s law requires health plans to cover at least a 48-hour hospital stay for new mothers and their babies. Such requirements protect some consumers while indirectly raising costs for others.

One mandate affects just about everybody: Workers must pay a tax to finance Medicare, which collects about $200 billion a year.

It's right on your W-2 form, line 6, "Medicare tax withheld." Workers must pay it even if they don't have health insurance. Employees of a company get to split the tax with their employer. The self-employed owe the full amount, 2.9 percent of earnings.

Lindsey Donner, a small-business owner from San Diego, pays the Medicare tax although she and her husband are uninsured. Donner, 27, says she doesn't see much difference between the mandate that workers help finance Medicare and the health care law's requirement that nearly everyone has to have some sort of health insurance.

"My understanding of what is going on in the Supreme Court is that it seems to be something of a semantics issue," she said. "Ultimately, I don't see the big difference. If I am paying for Medicare, why can't I also be paying into something that would help me right now or in five years if I want to have children?"

Donner is a copy writer for businesses; her husband specializes in graphics design. In the past they had a health plan with a high deductible, but they found they were paying monthly premiums for insurance they never used—something she said they couldn't afford on a tight budget.

Under the law, people such as Donner and her husband would have to get insurance or pay a fine. But they may qualify for federal subsidies to help pay premiums for policies that would be more comprehensive. Preventive care would be covered with no co-payments.

"We have jobs, we pay our bills, we pay our taxes," said Donner. "Yet it is very difficult to find affordable, reasonable health care."

There's no question the Medicare payroll tax is a government mandate, said Mark Hayes, former chief health counsel for the Republican staff of the Senate Finance Committee.

But he makes a distinction between the payroll tax and the individual health insurance mandate in Obama's health care law.

Nation

Dems sharpen attack as GOP rallies behind Romney

MILWAUKEE (AP)—President Barack Obama's administration launched a multi-pronged assault on Mitt Romney's values and foreign policy credentials Sunday, while a fresh set of prominent Republicans rallied behind the GOP front-runner as the odds-on nominee, further signs the general election is overtaking the primary season.

A defiant Rick Santorum outlined plans to leave Wisconsin the day before the state's contest Tuesday, an indication that the conservative favorite may be in retreat, his chances to stop Romney rapidly dwindling.

"I think the chances are overwhelming that (Romney) will be our nominee," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union." "It seems to me we're in the final phases of wrapping up this nomination. And most of the members of the Senate Republican conference are either supporting him, or they have the view that I do, that it's time to turn our attention to the fall campaign and begin to make the case against the president of the United States."

Both Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden went after Romney Sunday, underscoring the belief inside Obama's Chicago re-election headquarters that Romney will—sooner than later—secure the right to face Obama this fall. Romney largely agreed, telling a Madison, Wis., crowd Sunday night that the nominee "will probably be me."

The Obama officials' involvement comes as both sides sharpen their general election strategy, perhaps weeks before the GOP contest formally comes to an end. "I think Gov. Romney's a little out of touch," Biden told CBS' "Face the Nation" in an interview broadcast Sunday. "I can't remember a presidential candidate in the recent past who seems not to understand, by what he says, what ordinary middle-class people are thinking about and are concerned about."

The line of attack is likely to play prominently in the Obama campaign's general election narrative. While Obama is a millionaire, Romney would be among the nation's wealthiest presidents ever elected. And he's opened himself to criticism through a series of missteps.

Romney casually bet a rival $10,000 during a presidential debate, noted that his wife drives a "couple of Cadillacs," and lists owners of professional sports teams among his friends. His personal tax records show investments in the Cayman Islands and a Swiss bank account.

Obama's team on Sunday also seized on Romney's foreign policy inexperience.

Biden said Obama was "stating the obvious" when he told Russian President Dmitry Medvedev that he would have more latitude on missile defense after the November general election. The two presidents did not realize the exchange, during a meeting in Seoul, South Korea, last weekend, was being picked up by a microphone.

Romney called it "alarming" and part of a pattern of "breathtaking weakness" with America's foes. He asked what else Obama would be flexible on if he were to win a second term.

"Speaking of flexible, Gov. Romney's a pretty flexible guy on his positions," Biden said. Romney's GOP opponents have accused the former Massachusetts governor of "flip-flopping" on issues such as health care and abortion.

Clinton seized on Romney's comment that Russia is America's "No. 1 geopolitical foe," calling the statement "dated" and suggesting there were more pressing matters of concern in global affairs.

"I think it's somewhat dated to be looking backwards instead of being realistic about where we agree, where we don't agree," Clinton told CNN Sunday.

"He just seems to be uninformed or stuck in a Cold War mentality," Biden added. "It exposes how little the governor knows about foreign policy."

But the administration's comments may have been overshadowed Sunday by Romney's ballooning Republican support.

Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., spent the weekend at Romney's side campaigning across Wisconsin, one of three states to host Republican primaries Tuesday. First-term Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., followed Ryan's lead Sunday morning.

"I'm coming out urging the voters of Wisconsin: `Let's lead. Let's show that this is the time to bring this process to an end so we can focus our attention on retiring President Obama,'" Johnson said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

He later appeared at a pancake brunch with Romney and offered a message to "every conservative": "I've spoken with Mitt, I totally believe he is committed to saving America."

The senator joins a growing chorus of prominent Republicans calling for the party to coalesce behind Romney's candidacy. Romney also scored former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and his father, President George H.W. Bush, in recent days.

Ryan's endorsement was particularly painful for Santorum, who had been aggressively praising the congressman—a fiscal conservative hero in Wisconsin and across the country—for much of the past week. That praise ended Saturday, when Santorum referred to Ryan as "some other Wisconsinite."

Santorum's senior staff outlined an increasingly unlikely path to victory that depends upon hypothetical success more than a month away.

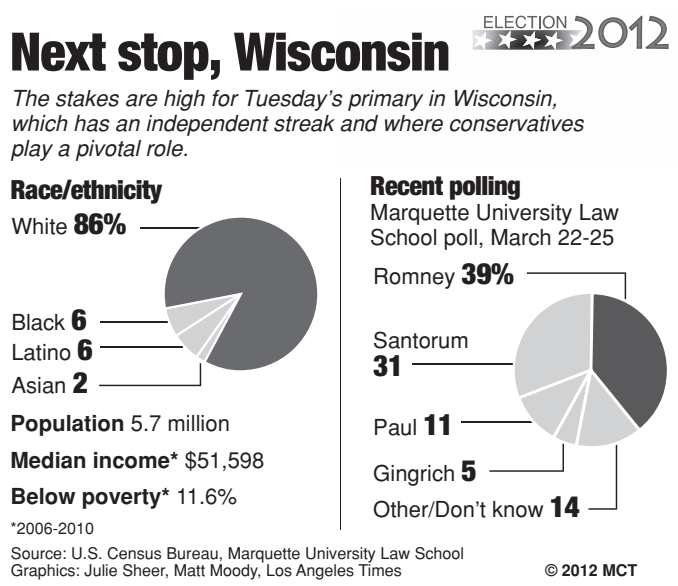
"May is going to be a good month for us," Santorum campaign manager Mike Biundo said. "The race goes on."

Biundo confirmed that Santorum is aggressively working the phones to sway delegates in states like Washington, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri that have already voted. But he's having mixed success.

"We have some (delegates) that have committed. I think most people seem to right now still be kind of waiting it out. There seems to be a lot of that that's going on," Biundo said.

Santorum was publicly defiant Sunday.

"Look, this race isn't even at halftime yet," he told "Fox News Sunday." He said Romney "hasn't been able to close the deal with conservatives, much less anybody else in this party. And that's not going to be an effective tool for us to win this election."



Thousands gather at Miami rally for Trayvon Martin

MIAMI (AP)—Political leaders, sport stars and entertainers were among several thousand people who gathered Sunday at a Miami rally to call for an arrest in the fatal shooting of an unarmed Florida teenager by a neighborhood watch volunteer.

The rally in 17-year-old Trayvon Martin's hometown was one of the largest yet and drew basketball stars Alonzo Mourning and Isaiah Thomas, singers Chaka Khan and Betty Wright, politicians and civil rights leaders.

Martin's father, speaking briefly, promised the crowd he would not stop fighting "for my Trayvon and for your Trayvon."

"Each and every one of us feels the pain of this family simply because Trayvon Martin could have been one of all of us," said Mourning, the former Miami Heat player.

The rally came a day after thousands marched through Sanford, the central Florida town where 28-year-old George Zimmerman shot and killed Martin in February. Martin was walking back from a convenience store, where he had gone to buy candy and iced tea, when he and Zimmerman got into an altercation. Zimmerman says he was attacked and has claimed self-defense; Martin's family disputes his version of events.

They point to 911 calls, a surveillance video of Zimmerman from shortly after the fatal shooting, and other records that they say prove Martin was not the aggressor. Zimmerman has not been arrested, though state and federal authorities are investigating.

The case has led to protests across the nation and spurred a debate about race and the laws of self-defense. Martin was black; Zimmerman's father is white and his mother is Hispanic.

Speaking at the rally Sunday, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said the case was about ending all types of racial profiling—not just in criminal cases, but by banks, insurance companies and in the job market.

"End profiling now," the civil rights activist said to applause.

Jackson also said Martin's case illustrated the high number of black students who are suspended from school. A report issued by the U.S. Department of Education last month found that black students are more than three times as likely as their white peers to be suspended or expelled. Martin had been suspended from school for having a baggie that contained marijuana residue shortly before he was killed.

"We must stop suspending our children," Jackson said, asking the crowd to repeat: "Invest in them. Educate them."

Many of the people who gathered at the bayside park on a sunny afternoon wore T-shirts with Martin's image and the words "Justice for Trayvon." Others wore buttons that said, "Do I look suspicious?" One man had a Mohawk with an image of Trayvon Martin painted on one side. A marching band from a high school that the teen attended danced, sang and beat drums.

Blacks have trouble clearing cervical cancer virus

CHICAGO (AP)—Provocative new research might help explain why black women are so much more likely than whites to develop and die from cervical cancer: They seem to have more trouble clearing HPV, the virus that causes the disease.

Doctors have long thought that less access to screening and follow-up health care were the reasons black women are 40 percent more likely to develop cervical cancer and twice as likely to die from it. The new study involving young college women suggests there might be a biological explanation for the racial disparity, too.

If further study confirms this novel finding, it would make the HPV vaccine even more important for black women, said Worta McCaskill-Stevens, a prevention specialist at the National Cancer Institute. The vaccine is recommended for all girls starting at age 11.

The study was presented Sunday at an American Association for Cancer Research conference in Chicago.

Certain strains of HPV, the human papillomavirus, cause cervical cancer, but brief infections are very common in young women. They usually go away on their own within a year or so and only pose a cancer risk when they last long-term.

Researchers at the University of South Carolina in Columbia studied 326 white and 113 black students taking part in a wider federal health study. All were given Pap tests—lab exams of cells scraped from the cervix—and HPV tests every six months throughout their years in school.

Although the groups were similar in how many new HPV infections were detected and risk factors such as how many sex partners they had, doctors saw striking differences in how long their infections lasted.

At any checkup, blacks were 1.5 times more likely to test positive for infection with one of the HPV strains that raise cancer risk, said study leader Kim Creek.

"The African-American women weren't clearing the virus as fast. They were actually holding onto it about six months longer," for 18 months versus 12 months for whites, he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Wife: JetBlue pilot wasn't 'intentionally violent'

NEW YORK (AP)—The wife of the JetBlue pilot whose frightening behavior forced an emergency landing says the family believes he wasn't "intentionally violent toward anyone." Connye Osbon released her statement Sunday through the airline, asking media to respect the family's privacy. She says the family is focused on his recovery and won't be giving interviews. Pilot Clayton Osbon became increasingly incoherent on a Tuesday flight from New York to Las Vegas. Co-pilot Jason Dowd locked him out of the cockpit and he was restrained by passengers. The plane landed in Texas.

Motor home crash kills 5 in northeast Kansas

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A motor home packed with a Minnesota family and a handful of their friends crashed Sunday morning in northeast Kansas as they returned from a vacation, killing five people and sending 13 others to hospitals. The Kansas Highway Patrol said the northbound vehicle was filled with 18 people and pulling a trailer when the driver lost control at 9 a.m. on Interstate 35. The vehicle hit a guardrail and a concrete bridge rail before crashing into a creek ravine near the small town of Williamsburg, which is located about 70 miles southwest of Kansas City, Mo. Debris was strewn around the crumpled Freightliner box truck, which had living quarters inside.

Police: Dismembered Ohioan was stabbed, suffocated

URBANA, Ohio (AP)—Five people have been arrested in connection with the death of an Ohio woman who police said was stabbed, suffocated and dismembered in a bathtub before some of her remains were taken to Kentucky. Jessica Rae Sacco, 21, was found dead Friday in her apartment in Urbana, about 40 miles northwest of Columbus. Authorities arrested five people Saturday, including a 25-year-old man who lived at the same address as Sacco. He's charged with murder, assault, abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence. "We believe that he stabbed her, and then subsequently suffocated her by placing a bag over her head," police Chief Matt Lingrell told WDTN-TV. The station said police described the murder suspect as Sacco's on-again-off-again boyfriend. His bond is more than $530,000.

Asia

Myanmar's Suu Kyi hopes victory is dawn of new era

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Aung San Suu Kyi claimed victory Monday in Myanmar's historic by-election, saying she hoped it would mark the beginning of a new era for the long-repressed country.

Suu Kyi spoke to thousands of cheering supporters who gathered outside her opposition party headquarters a day after her party claimed she had won a parliamentary seat in the closely watched vote.

Official confirmation of the results could take days, but the people of Myanmar have reacted with jubilation.

"The success we are having is the success of the people," Suu Kyi said, as a sea of supporters chanted her name and thrust their hands into the air to flash "V" for victory signs.

"It is not so much our triumph as a triumph of the people who have decided that they have to be involved in the political process in this country," she said. "We hope this will be the beginning of a new era."

If confirmed, Suu Kyi will take public office for the first time and lead a small bloc of opposition lawmakers in Myanmar's military-dominated Parliament.

The victory would mark a major milestone in the Southeast Asian nation, which is emerging from a ruthless era of military rule, and also an astonishing reversal of fortune for a woman who became one of the world's most prominent prisoners of conscience.

Unofficial counts continued to trickle in Monday from poll watchers within Suu Kyi's party, and spokesman Han Than said the opposition had won at least 43 of the 44 parliament seats it had contested. Those included all four seats up for grabs in the capital, Naypyitaw, which is populated by civil servants and would be an embarrassing sign of defeat for the government.

AP

Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi receives flowers from supporters as she leaves the headquarters of her National League for Democracy party in Yangon, Myanmar Monday, April 2, 2012.

The former junta had kept Suu Kyi imprisoned in her lakeside home for the better part of two decades. When she was finally released in late 2010, just after a general election that was deemed by most as neither free nor fair, few could have imagined she would so quickly make the leap from democracy advocate to elected official - opening the way for a potential presidential run in 2015.

But Myanmar has changed dramatically over that time. The junta finally ceded power last year, and although many of its leaders merely swapped their military uniforms for civilian suits, they went on to stun even their staunchest critics by releasing political prisoners, signing cease-fires with rebels, relaxing press censorship and opening a direct dialogue with Suu Kyi, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 while under house arrest.

Hoping to convince the international community of its progress, Myanmar invited dozens of Western and Asian election observers to monitor the vote and granted visas to hundreds of foreign journalists.

Suu Kyi herself said Friday that campaigning had been marred by irregularities and could not be considered fair—allegations her party reiterated Sunday.

Malgorzata Wasilewska, head of the European Union's observer team, called the voting process "convincing enough" but stopped short of declaring it credible yet. "In the polling stations that I visited ... I saw plenty of good practice and good will, which is very important," she said.

The United States and the European Union have said that the fairness of the voting will be a major factor in their decision on whether to lift economic sanctions that were imposed to penalize the former junta.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton congratulated Myanmar for holding the poll. Speaking at a news conference in Istanbul, Turkey, she said Washington was committed to supporting the country's reform effort.

"Even the most repressive regimes can reform, and even the most closed societies can open," she said.

The topdown revolution has left Myanmar befuddled and wondering how it happened—or at least, why now? One theory says the military-backed regime had long been desperate for legitimacy and a lifting of Western sanctions, and its leadership had quietly recognized that their impoverished country, formerly known as Burma, had fallen far behind the rest of skyscraper-rich Asia.

Sunday's by-election was called to fill 45 vacant seats in Myanmar's 664-member bicameral assembly, and the military-backed government had little to lose by holding it. The last vote had already been engineered in their favor—the army was allotted 25 percent of the seats, and the ruling party won most of the rest.

David Scott Mathieson, an expert on Myanmar for Human Rights Watch, said "the real danger of the by-elections is the overblown expectations many in the West have cast on them."

"The hard work really does start afterward," he said. "Constitutional reform, legal reform, tackling systemic corruption, sustainable economic development, continued human rights challenges ... will take many years."

ASIA BRIEFS

Parties kept spirits high on blaze-hit cruise ship

SANDAKAN, Malaysia (AP)—Passengers of a blaze-hit cruise ship endured tense moments when smoke crept through their doors during dinner. But a swift halt to the fire's threat, a hardworking crew and barbecue parties on the deck kept spirits buoyant after the luxury vessel spent a day adrift in Philippine waters. After the Azamara Quest safely reached a Malaysian port with 1,000 people aboard, its passengers voiced relief Monday that their experience hadn't been as harrowing as what happened to other accident-hit cruise liners this year. Diane Becker Krasnick of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, says "everybody was joyous that they were alive."

Protesters allege Beijing meddling in HK affairs

HONG KONG (AP)—Thousands in Hong Kong have protested against alleged meddling by Beijing in the recent selection of the city's next leader. Police used pepper spray Sunday on some protesters who tried to break past barricades around the Chinese central government's liaison office in the semiautonomous region. Police estimated about 5,300 people took part in the march. They chanted pro-democracy slogans and burned a Hong Kong flag. It was the first major demonstration since Leung Chun-ying was chosen a week ago to be Hong Kong's next chief executive. He won 689 of 1,132 votes cast by a 1,200-seat committee packed with Beijing loyalists.

North Korea sets April 11 date for party conference

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea's ruling party has announced it will hold a political conference just before a controversial satellite launch. The state-run Korean Central News Agency reported early Monday that the Workers' Party conference will be held April 11 in Pyongyang. North Korea's new leader, Kim Jong Un, is expected to gain new titles at the conference. The political gathering takes place just before the start of a five-day window when North Korea says it will launch a satellite into space on the back of a long-range rocket. Pyongyang says it's part of celebrations marking late President Kim Il Sung's 100th birthday.

Pakistani boy who burned himself over uniform dies

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Like many in Pakistan, 13-year-old Kamran Khan's family did not have enough money to send him to school. He was such a promising student that a local private school allowed him to attend for free, according to his older brother.

Kamran never asked for anything, his brother Saleem Khan said. But last month, he pleaded with his mother for days to buy him a new school uniform, a white shalwar kameez, the loose-fitting shirt and pants worn by both men and women in Pakistan. He was embarrassed that his old one was worn out and patched up.

His mother sympathized with him but repeatedly told him the family didn't have the money. She finally lost her patience a week ago and slapped the boy, according to the brother's account. The youth responded by threatening to kill himself if his parents could not buy him the uniform.

Kamran then stormed out of the house, doused himself with gasoline and lit himself on fire. He suffered burns on 65 percent of his body and died of his wounds on Saturday, family and officials said Sunday. He was in an army-run hospital in Punjab province, but the family could only raise one-tenth of the roughly $5,500 they needed for his treatment and so he did not get the care he needed.

His family had been struggling to get by and provide for their children, even with the school fees waved. Khan's father borrowed money from relatives to buy a work visa to Saudi Arabia four months ago, but has not managed to find a job there, said Saleem Khan. The mother works as a maid.

The teen used to wander the streets in Shabqadar, a town of 60,000 in northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, looking for bits of metal scrap and other items to sell, said his brother.

In South Korea, US education means split families

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—As American teenagers go, Sally Kim is pretty typical. She's crazy about singer Bruno Mars and the Plain White T's rock band, spends way too much time on Facebook and can't wait to start college in the fall.

Yet when it comes to that familiar bane of her fellow high school seniors—uncool parents—Kim has few worries. Hers are nearly 7,000 miles away in Seoul, South Korea. They sent their only child to live with relatives in Missouri a decade ago, when she was just 8.

The three keep in touch over Skype, but Kim craves personal contact even more than when she first arrived.

"As I get older, it definitely gets harder," said Kim, who lives with an aunt and uncle, a college professor, and returns to her native country in the summer. "I look back, and I think I've missed out on so many years of being with my mom and dad."

Such relocations, known as early study abroad, have surged in popularity in South Korea, where a rigid, test-driven education system, combined with intense social pressure to succeed in an English-first global economy, often means breaking up families for the sake of school.

Some children, like Kim, live with relatives or family friends. Others move with their mothers and siblings while the fathers remain alone in Asia to work. Among Koreans, the families are known as kirogi, or "wild geese," because they visit home briefly once or twice a year before returning to their overseas outposts.

The Korean Educational Development Institute reports that the number of pre-college students who left the country solely to study abroad increased from just over 2,000 in 1995 to a peak of nearly 30,000 in 2006. And that number did not include students whose parents work or study overseas.

The number has since declined to more than 18,000 in 2009, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

Unlike American students who usually wait until high school or college to study abroad—and generally limit the experience to a semester or two—77 percent of Korean students in the U.S. in 2009 were in elementary or middle school, a time when they are seen as best able to learn English.

Wild geese families are particularly common in college towns such as Columbia and Champaign-Urbana, Ill., where researchers are studying the effects on family life, culture and the economy in both countries.

Sumie Okazaki, an associate professor of applied psychology at New York University who previously taught at the University of Illinois, said that many young Korean students feel intense pressure to succeed and are reluctant to share any doubts or misgivings, whether the topic is family finances or their own well-being.

World

Nations pledge millions for Syrian opposition

ISTANBUL (AP)—A coalition of more than 70 partners, including the United States, pledged Sunday to send millions of dollars and communications equipment to Syria's opposition groups, signaling deeper involvement in the conflict amid a growing belief that diplomacy and sanctions alone cannot end the Damascus regime's repression.

The shift by the U.S. and its Western and Arab allies toward seeking to sway the military balance in Syria carries regional risks because the crisis there increasingly resembles a proxy conflict that could exacerbate sectarian tensions. The Syrian rebels are overmatched by heavily armed regime forces.

The summit meeting of the "Friends of the Syrian People" follows a year of failed diplomacy that seems close to running its course with a troubled peace plan led by U.N.-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan.

Indeed, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other participants at the conference in Istanbul uniformly expressed concern that Annan's plan might backfire, speculating that Syrian President Bashar Assad would try to manipulate it to prolong his hold on power.

Clinton said she was waiting for Annan's report to the U.N. Security Council on Monday on the status of his peace plan.

"There cannot be process for the sake of process. There has to be a timeline. If Assad continues as he has, to fail to end the violence, to institute a cease-fire, to withdraw his troops from the areas he has been battering ... then it's unlikely he is going to ever agree," she said. "Because it is a clear signal that he wants to wait to see if he has totally suppressed the opposition. I think he would be mistaken to believe that. My reading is that the opposition is gaining in intensity, not losing."

AP

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks to the media after a conference of foreign ministers in Istanbul, Turkey, Sunday, April 1, 2012.

Clinton said the United States is providing communications equipment to help anti-government activists in Syria organize, remain in contact with the outside world and evade regime attacks.

The Syrian regime agreed last week to Annan's plan, which calls for an immediate cease-fire, humanitarian access to besieged civilians and a political negotiation process led by Syrians. Since then, there have been daily reports of violence, including shelling Sunday in the central city of Homs that activists said killed more than two dozen people.

The uprising began in March 2011 as part of the Arab Spring with peaceful protests calling for political reforms. Assad's regime sent tanks, snipers and thugs to try to quash the revolt, and many in the opposition have taken up arms to defend themselves and attack government troops. The United Nations says more than 9,000 have died.

Conference participants in Istanbul said Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries are creating a fund to pay members of the rebel Free Syrian Army and soldiers who defect from the regime and join opposition ranks. One delegate described the fund as a "pot of gold" to undermine Assad's army.

Participants confirmed the Gulf plan on condition of anonymity because details were still being worked out. One said the fund would involve several million dollars a month. It is said to be earmarked for salaries, but it was not clear whether there would be any effort to prevent the diversion of money to weapons purchases, a sensitive issue that could prompt stronger accusations of military meddling by foreign powers.

The delivery of humanitarian aid to Syria's beleaguered civilians is a key provision of Annan's plan. Clinton announced $12 million in additional aid for Syria's people—doubling the total U.S. assistance so far.

The Saudis and other Arab Gulf states have proposed giving weapons to the rebels, while the U.S. and other allies have balked out of fear of fueling an all-out civil war. Washington hasn't taken any public position on the fund, but it appears that it has given tacit support to its Arab allies. Mohammed al-Said, a Syrian activist in the town of Duma, northwest of Damascus, said salaries might encourage further defections, but that only arms would turn the tide against Assad.

"What is clear to us is that only fighting can make this regime leave," he said via Skype, adding the opposition wanted arms more than military intervention so they could topple Assad themselves.

Fayez Amru, a rebel who recently defected from the military and is now based in Turkey, welcomed the decision as a "humanitarian step in the right direction" but also said weapons were needed.

"We feel let down by the international community. I don't know why there is hesitation by the West ... maybe this will help at least keep the rebels on their feet," Amru said.

In Damascus, Syria blasted the conference, calling it part of an international conspiracy to kill Syrians and weaken the country. A front-page editorial in the official Al-Baath newspaper said the meeting was a "regional and international scramble to search for ways to kill more Syrians, sabotage their society and state, and move toward the broad objective of weakening Syria."

Timbuktu, ancient Islamic city, under attack

AGADEZ, Niger (AP)—Booms from rocket launchers and automatic gunfire crackled Sunday around Mali's fabled town of Timbuktu, known as an ancient seat of Islamic learning, for its 700-year-old mud mosque and, more recently, as host of the musical Festival in the Desert that attracted Bono in January.

On Sunday, nomadic Tuaregs who descended from the people who first created Timbuktu in the 11th century and seized it from invaders in 1434, attacked the city in their fight to create a homeland for the Sahara's blue-turbanned nomads. Their assault deepens a political crisis sparked March 21 when mutinous soldiers seized power in the capital. The Tuaregs have rebelled before, but never have they succeeded in taking Timbuktu or the major northern centers of Kidal and Gao, which fell Friday and Saturday as demoralized government troops retreated.

The expression "from here to Timbuktu" conjures up the end-of-the-earth remoteness of the sun-baked frontier town. It does not express the town's dynamic role as a major crossroads for the caravan trade between the Arab north and black West Africa, bringing together black Africans, Berbers, Arabs and, above all, the Tuaregs.

The Tuareg set up their camel-skin and palm-mat tents in the dry season, attracted by Timbuktu's location where the Niger River flows toward the southern brink of the Sahara Desert, prompting some to call it the point where "the camel meets the canoe."

The tents soon gave way to sun-dried terracotta-colored mud brick buildings built in the Moorish style as traders, medical doctors, clerics, artists, poets and others settled.

From the sizzling desert sand and burning sun, one enters walled enclosures with a central courtyard and archways leading to the welcome cool of shadowy rooms where men chat over copious cups of strong, mint-flavored tea brewed thrice in a time-honored tradition. Women bake bread in the sand and cook spice-perfumed dishes of goat, cow and camel meat flavored with dried wild hibiscus flowers or the powdered leaves of the okra plant fried in shea butter.

Arab traders brought salt and other goods that reached North Africa's Mediterranean shores and traded it in Timbuktu for gold and, above all, the books that make the town a center for intellectuals.

Plane crash in Siberia kills 32 of 43 on board

MOSCOW (AP)—A passenger plane crashed in Siberia shortly after taking off Monday morning, killing 32 of the 43 people on board, Russian emergency officials said. The 11 survivors were hospitalized in serious condition.

The ATR-72, a French-Italian-made twin-engine turboprop, operated by UTair was flying from Tyumen to the oil town of Surgut with 39 passengers and four crew.

The aircraft went down on a snowy field outside Tyumen, a major regional center in Siberia. The cause of the crash was not yet clear.

UTair published a list of the passengers and crew, and none of them appeared to be foreigners.

The Emergency Situations Ministry said 12 survivors were flown to a hospital by helicopter, but one of them died there.

Russia has seen a string of deadly crashes in recent years. Some have been blamed on the use of aging Soviet-era aircraft, but industry experts point to a number of other problems, including poor crew training, crumbling airports, lax government controls and widespread neglect of safety in the pursuit of profits.

In 2010, Poland's president and 95 other people died after their plane crashed near Smolensk, in western Russia.

In February, a pilot error was blamed for another crash in central Russia that killed 44 people, including a professional hockey team.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mali coup leader reinstates old constitution

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—The junior officer who overthrew Mali's democratically elected leader earlier this month and dissolved the nation's constitution made a public U-turn Sunday, declaring amid enormous international pressure that he was reinstating the 1992 constitution and planning to hold elections. Capt. Amadou Haya Sanogo added that he would organize a national convention to agree on a transitional government which will organize free and fair elections. What he did not make clear is when the convention would be held, or when elections would take place, or if he would remain president during the transitional period. Sanogo's announcement came as Tuareg rebels penetrated and seized control of the ancient northern city of Timbuktu, a move that deepens the crisis in the West African nation.

Ex-Mexican President De la Madrid dies at age 77

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Former President Miguel de la Madrid, who led Mexico from 1982 to 1988 during an economic crisis and a devastating earthquake, died Sunday at age 77, the government said. De la Madrid was the first in a string of presidents who pulled Mexico away from a state-dominated economy and toward free trade by bringing the country into the precursor to the World Trade Organization and by privatizing hundreds of government businesses. President Felipe Calderon called De la Madrid "a Mexican with a profound commitment to the country" in a statement confirming his death Sunday. The cause of death was not revealed, but the former president had been hospitalized in Mexico City with respiratory problems since Dec. 17.

UK Internet group: Surveillance program in works

LONDON (AP)—Every email to your child. Every status update for your friends. Every message to your mistress. The U.K. government is preparing proposals for a nationwide electronic surveillance network that could potentially keep track of every message sent by any Brit to anyone at any time, an industry official briefed on the government's moves said Sunday. Plans for a massive government database of the country's phone and email traffic were abandoned in 2008 following a public outcry. But James Blessing of the Internet Service Providers' Association said the government appears to be "reintroducing it on a slightly different format."

Focus

1940 census records include 21 million still alive

AP

In this March 30, 2012, photo, Verla Morris, who will turn 100 later this year, poses for a photo with some of her family census data from the 19th and 20th centuries at her local residential senior center in Chandler, Ariz.

NEW YORK (AP)—When the 1940 census records are released today, Verla Morris can consider herself a part of living history.

Morris, who is in her 100th year, will get to experience the novelty of seeing her own name and details about her life in the records being released by the U.S. National Archives online after 72 years of confidentiality expires.

"I'd be happy to see it there," she said. "I don't think anything could surprise me, really."

Morris is one of more than 21 million people alive in the U.S. and Puerto Rico who were counted in the 16th federal decennial census, which documents the tumultuous decade of the 1930s transformed by the Great Depression and black migration from the rural South. It's a distinction she shares with such living celebrities as Clint Eastwood and Morgan Freeman.

Morris, who has been working on her family history since 1969 and has written six books on its branches, said census records were essential for her genealogical work because oftentimes people don't want to give their personal information.

"Lots of times I just have to wait until maybe they die," she said. "Then I'll have all their information."

But census records, which include names, addresses and—in the case of the 1940 census, income and employment information—are rich with long-veiled personal details.

Morris, who turns 100 in August and was contacted through the National Centenarian Awareness Project, said she was working as a keypunch operator in Fairfield, Ill., when the 1940 census was taken. "I don't remember them taking my census," said Morris, who lives in Chandler, Ariz.

While a name index will not be immediately available to search, tens of thousands of researchers across the country are expected to go on a monumental genealogical hunt this week through the digitized records for details on 132 million people. Access to the records will be free and open to anyone on the Internet.

> "Lots of times I just have to wait until maybe they die," she said. "Then I'll have all their information."

Every decade since 1942, the National Archives has made available records from past censuses. Some privacy advocates have opposed releasing such large amounts of personal information about living people.

The American Civil Liberties Union, for instance, has for over 30 years opposed any unrestricted release of census records.

Jay Stanley, a senior policy analyst at the ACLU, said harm could come from combining the rich 1940 census data with other information.

"Computer technology today allows you to take information from different sources and combine it into a very high resolution image of somebody's life," he said. "Each particular piece of information might just be one pixel. But when brought together, they become very intrusive."

A document obtained from the National Archives by The Associated Press through a Freedom of Information Act request shows that, in 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau raised privacy concerns about the disclosure of the 1940 census by the nation's record-keeper.

Census Bureau spokesman Robert Bernstein said in an email that any fears the data could be used to harm anyone living today "such as through identity theft" were alleviated when the archives said no birthdates or Social Security numbers would be in the records. One 1940 census question asked a sample group of over 6 million people whether they had a Social Security number, but did not explicitly ask for the number itself.

Susan Cooper, a spokeswoman for the National Archives, said the agency did not do a privacy impact assessment of the records. She said archives officials did not know of any complaints from the public about the impending release.

Robert Gellman, a privacy and information consultant, said he doubted the records would be of much value to crooks, given how easy it is to obtain personal information on the Internet.

"There's nobody out there complaining about 70-year-old records being used against them," he said.

Morris is also unconcerned about personal information from 1940 being made public.

A self-confessed genealogy addict, she said it was important for people to be able to learn about their ancestors through genealogical research and relies on census records constantly.

"Every family should be interested enough to have a family history," she said.

Overdrive

Prius C has unexciting ride, thrilling mileage

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

MCT

The "C" in the 2012 Toyota Prius C stands for "city," and as one would expect of a Prius designed for city use, it's smaller of size and price than the original Prius liftback.

DELRAY BEACH, Fla.—If you had to describe the Toyota Prius gas-electric hybrid in one sentence or phrase, what would you say?

Well, Toyota describes the Prius as "an enthusiast's car for a new kind of enthusiast."

Certainly it's an easy way to justify the Prius's personality, which is one of benign efficiency. It can travel farther on a gallon of gasoline than its competitors, but it does so with all of the tangible excitement of a senior citizens' bingo tournament.

This gas-sipper's thrills come not from the speedometer, but from the fuel gauge, which barely budges as the miles pass.

If this excites you, the Prius is your car.

It certainly has excited a lot of buyers. Toyota has sold more than 2.5 million Prius hybrids worldwide, 1.1 million in the United States since 2000, and 96 percent are still on the road, according to Toyota.

The car accounts for half of all hybrids sold in the U.S., outselling Honda hybrids by a margin of four to one, Ford and Hyundai hybrids by five to one and GM hybrids by ten to one.

So is it any wonder that Toyota is expanding the Prius line?

A cargo-friendly Prius V, which plops a wagon body atop the Prius platform, went on sale in November. A plug-in version of the Prius liftback is scheduled to go on sale shortly. But the most important model may be the one just arriving in Toyota showrooms: the Prius C.

The C stands for city, and as you would expect of a Prius designed for city use, it's smaller of size and price than the Prius liftback.

The C is 19.1 inches shorter than the liftback, but 3.8 inches longer than the subcompact Yaris, with which the C shares its platform. This newest Prius is smaller in other ways as well. By using 120 cells in the car's battery pack, 48 fewer than its larger cousin, the C is 14 percent lighter. Better yet, the pack is located under the rear seat, instead of in the cargo area as on other hybrids. This allows for more luggage space.

In the engine compartment, Toyota uses a 1.5-liter double-overhead-cam four-cylinder engine that produces 73 horsepower. When combined with the electric motors, the Prius C's driveline produces 99 horsepower, 35 fewer ponies than the liftback. A continuously variable automatic transmission is standard.

The car starts in normal mode, although drivers can choose an EV mode, for pure electric driving, and an Eco mode, which dampens throttle response and climate control settings for optimal fuel economy.

Given that, it's no surprise that the Prius C is no speed demon. Power is better once up to speed, but you must stomp the throttle to extract any juice. That's the price one pays for good mileage, which clocks in at 53 mpg city, 46 highway. (By comparison, the larger Prius is rated at 51 city, 48 highway.) A mixed driving loop in southern Florida returned 50 mpg.

Although you might be put off by this model's Yaris bloodline, this wee hybrid has a solid ride and an absence of the delicate feel present in the original Prius. You can feel the structure that the C possesses.

The ride is well-dampened for such a small car. Its impressively serene cabin is quieter than other small cars, with little wind or tire noise at lower speeds. The gas engine moans and thrashes loudly when more power is requested, and tire and road noise are more apparent at speed increases. This merely reinforces its personality as a city car.

Steering is direct, yet light in feel. The front disc, rear drum brakes are very powerful and, as is typical of hybrids, touchy.

While you would struggle to call the C fun to drive, it does have the light, tossable feel common to small cars.

The cabin is spacious for the size of the car. In fact, it seems roomier than some compacts. The center console area is open, so taller drivers won't find their knees knocking it.

The overall ambience is that of hard plastic; only the armrests are padded. But the car feels more substantial than the original Prius, or its main rival, the Honda Insight.

The instrument panel's center-mounted speedometer works better than in other small Toyotas.

But Toyota places an open bin in front of the driver in the space normally used for a speedometer. One can imagine younger drivers placing mobile phones there and texting or having their phones fly rearward and hit them in the face. This bin is more of a safety hazard than a good idea.

Besides, it's not needed. There's a lot of storage space elsewhere.

The front seats are comfortable, supportive and have enough side bolstering to hold you in place without being aggressive. Rear seat legroom is better than you'd expect, even with the front seats pushed rearward. The rear seatbacks are split and fold to augment the cargo area.

As for electronics, the car doesn't have a starter button; you have to turn a key to start the car. But all Prius Cs get standard electronic climate control and a tire pressure monitor that measures pressure at all four wheels.

The audio system sounds fairly good for the price of the car, despite some muddiness.

In addition, Toyota offers a new feature called Eco Score, which tells you how efficiently you're driving and the fuel cost of your trip.

Speaking of cost, you might be surprised to find that the Prius C starts at less than $19,000, with a fully loaded version topping out at $24,000.

The 2012 Prius C's personality is very much a city car. You could drive it across country, but better to drive it across town.

It's no better or worse to drive than other Priuses.

But you'll find the 2012 Prius C is much better than the Yaris, not to mention the original Prius.

NUTS & BOLTS

2012 Prius C:

- **Engine:** 1.5-liter DOHC four-cylinder
- **Wheelbase:** 100.4 inches
- **Length:** 157.3 inches
- **Weight:** 2,496 pounds
- **Cargo space:** 17.1 cubic feet
- **EPA rating** (city/highway): 53 / 46 mpg
- **Fuel consumption:** 50 mpg
- **Fuel type:** Regular
- **Base price, base model:** $18,950 (excluding destination charge)
- **Base price, test model:** $21,635
- **As tested:** Not available

How to wring last miles out of truck

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I bought a 2002 GMC Sierra 2500 HD two years ago at 150,000 miles. It now has 190,000 miles with no problems. What maintenance steps should I be concerned with at this point?—Chris Poston

ANSWER: It sounds like your truck has had good maintenance and prudent use to be so trouble-free. If not done previously to your knowledge, I'd look into flushing and renewing brake, power steering and transmission fluids and engine coolant; renewing rear and front differential fluids; and inspecting engine, transmission and exhaust system mounts. These fluids are often neglected and, along with rubber parts, can't be expected to last forever. Front suspension and steering parts such as shock absorbers, ball joints, the idler arm and tie rod ends may also be getting loose or sloppy, affecting tire wear and crisp handling.

At this mileage, it's reasonable to expect some issues on the horizon. If the Sierra is equipped with the 6.0-liter gasoline engine, you may someday encounter leaking intake manifold gaskets or coolant, which could leak externally or into crankcase. A valve job and timing-chain replacement will likely be needed some time down the road; it's best if all are done together at the same time. Keep driving until any of these become an issue.

Sierras of this vintage equipped with the 6.6-liter diesel engine are known for some problems with the fuel injectors. Regular fuel filter replacement and an occasional dose of Sea Foam additive will help keep the injectors happy.

The standard-duty 4L60E transmission is known for a few issues at high mileage, including valve body wear, which causes jarring shifts between first and second gears. This activates the "check engine" light with trouble code P1870; it's moderately inexpensive to repair. Reaction sun shell failure, meaning no reverse, second or fourth gear, is another possible issue and requires transmission overhaul. Drive it until something breaks. The more robust 4L80E transmission should last as long as the rest of the truck.

I'm a fan of vehicles with high mileage for their age. Odd are these are highway miles, and they're by far the easiest on a vehicle. Loafing along mile after mile in fourth gear sure beats the constant shifting, potholes and starts and stops a city vehicle encounters. Let's see if you can hit 300,000 without too much trouble.

Run-flat tires can save the day

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I recently purchased a 2011 Toyota Sienna AWD van. It has run-flat tires and no spare. I tow a boat at times in places where it's not easy to get a flat fixed, so I want to purchase a spare to carry on trips. Because the car has all-wheel drive, should I purchase a "doughnut" spare or a full-size one? Some say that I need a full-size spare; others that a doughnut will work just fine. What is best?

ANSWER: Having experience with run-flat tires on two different vehicles—a 1959 military Ferret reconnaissance car and a 2007 Corvette—I don't think you should worry about carrying a spare tire. Run-flat tires are designed to do precisely that—operate safely with zero air pressure for a reasonable distance at modest speed. In the case of the Ferret, the idea was to be able to drive away from the battlefield after having one or more tires shot up. The Corvette is like your van—no room for a spare. I drove 70 miles home at night in the rain at 50 miles an hour with zero air pressure in the right rear tire with no additional damage to the tire. The next day I had the tire properly patched, and it's still on the vehicle over a year later.

Although my automotive version of Murphy's law says that if you have a spare you'll never need to use it, if you choose to buy a spare, it must be the same make, model and size tire with the same rolling circumference in order to prevent any damage to the AWD drivetrain, should you need to use it.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 1991 V-6 Toyota pickup with 70,000 miles. After I drive it a long way and get back in, it does not start. Sometimes it will take a jump-start, and other times it has to cool down. It will click sometimes and sometimes do nothing at all. The starter has been replaced three times with Toyota starters. I can tap the starter, and then it might start. Could this be a "fusible link"?

A: No. A fusible link, like a simple fuse, is a single-event electrical protective device. Once it fails, it can no longer conduct any electrical current. Focus on battery cables, connections and grounds, as well as the starter relay under the dash and the starter solenoid, which is incorporated into the reduction starter housing.

The simple do-it-yourself procedure is to use jumper cables to bypass the entire electrical system for the starter. When the engine fails to crank, make sure the key is off and the transmission in park, then connect the red, or positive, jumper cable clamps to the positive starter terminal on the starter motor and the positive terminal on the battery. Connect the black or negative jumper cable to the negative terminal on the battery and then, with all due caution, touch the other negative clamp to a solid electrical ground on the engine, such as the alternator mounting bracket. The solenoid should engage the starter and crank the engine. If it does, the problem is a poor electrical connection or ground between the battery, starter and chassis ground.

If the starter does not engage during this test, there's a problem with the starter motor or magnetic solenoid switch, which is a separate part of the starter motor assembly.

Life & Style

Frank Langella dishes about the famous in memoir

By MARK KENNEDY
AP DRAMA WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The phone at Frank Langella's home rings and rings, unanswered. The very private three-time Tony Award winner apparently is not willing to answer questions about his debut book.

Oh, wait: It turns out he has inadvertently given out the number for his fax machine.

"We'll talk to Dr. Freud about that sometime," he jokes later.

It turns out that Langella, fresh off the Broadway revival of Terence Rattigan's "Man and Boy," would very much like to talk about his literary debut, the memoir "Dropped Names: Famous Men and Women as I Knew Them," which went on sale this week.

The book is a collection of 66 impressionistic sketches of movie stars, social celebrities, Broadway icons, politicians and writers, including John F. Kennedy, George C. Scott, Tip O'Neill, Bette Davis, Jill Clayburgh and Charlton Heston. All but one are dead.

There are stories of dating Elizabeth Taylor, streaking in front of Sir Laurence Olivier, playing Scrabble with Paul Mellon and being wooed by both Noel Coward and Roddy McDowall (neither attempt succeeded, he writes). He and Marilyn Monroe shared just one word, but it changed his life.

Langella plumbs his long career, which has put him in arm's reach of many famous people. He's gone from a sexy Dracula, Cyrano and Sherlock Holmes to a mature Richard Nixon in "Frost/Nixon" onstage and onscreen, Sir Thomas More in "A Man for All Seasons" and Perry White in "Superman Returns."

Not all the celebrities come off well, including Richard Burton ("Could anyone, I wondered, be so unaware of what a crashing bore he had become?"), Anthony Quinn ("a big bully") and Paul Newman ("emotionally vacant").

Langella also doesn't spare himself. He acknowledges being a terrible boor around Deborah Kerr and Dinah Shore, did something "unforgivable" to Jackie Kennedy and is wistful about being a lover to a faded Rita Hayworth, saying she was "the single most tragic example of how far from the real person an image can be." He calls "Cutthroat Island" one of his worst films, "the single most egregious example of excess I have ever witnessed in the movie world."

"I really felt very strongly that I wasn't going to write a sweetie-darling-honey-baby book," he says. "Most celebrities' biographies I read I can't get through—they're either immensely self-raising or absolutely whitewashing."

Langella says he sought out permission from relatives and intimate friends of his subjects before publishing. "I've chosen to write my memories—as I recall them—as honestly as I could," he says. "None of it was meant to be coy or a tease."

Langella

One of the most touching chapters—and one of Langella's favorites—is about Cameron Mitchell, a one-time leading man who by the mid-1970s had turned into a "fat, jowly mess, covering his sad decline with an over-the-top wisecracking demeanor." In one story, Langella writes that fellow actors teased Mitchell by spinning him around in a too-small jacket.

"I've never forgotten the look in his eyes. I've never forgotten the sad, broken terror when everyone around him was just laughing their heads off, thinking how funny it was," Langella says. "That's around the corner for everybody if we don't watch out. I suppose that chapter means a lot to me because of the ephemeralness of life and also the ephemeralness of my profession."

Langella says there are so many people who didn't make the cut in the book that he's already considering a second volume of "Dropped Names."

The Associated Press: How was the book born?

Langella: It's been in my head for years and years and years. I've been a very lucky duck: I've run into the most extraordinary people as a result of being an actor. But it started in earnest when Jill Clayburgh died. I hadn't spent a lot of time with her in her last years and I was so sad and regretted missing that. A friend I was with asked me who she was. He was a great deal younger. I sat down and took out a yellow legal pad and wrote for about three hours about Jill. And then I decided to write about somebody else. And then somebody else. And then pretty soon they just kept adding up. I would go, 'Oh, I remember this' and 'I remember that.' I wanted to immortalize them all, warts and all.

AP: Was it fun to write?

Langella: Actually, it was quite wonderful to write—and agony to rewrite. I wrote and wrote and wrote—I think it ended up to be about 110 people. And then it was very difficult to go through it and decide who to remove. People came in and went out and came back and forth. It took me a very long time to bring it down to the 65 or 66 it is. And then there was a great deal of reading them over and over. I must have reviewed every one of them several dozen times.

AP: Did you have any misgivings about telling tales out of school?

Langella: No. Anything I didn't think was proper to make public, I just simply didn't make public. I was very careful about that. I went through these stories over and over again and I kept asking myself, 'Do you want to say this?' and 'Do you want to say that?' A great, great deal was cut. Twice the book was cut. Because I wrote utterly without censorship. I wrote with abandon and I wrote exactly what I felt and exactly what happened in a tremendous amount of detail, which was very cathartic. And then I said, 'OK, that was cathartic for me, but now it goes into the fireplace.'

AP: You, yourself, don't always come off very well.

Langella: I was religious about making certain that I often showed the worst of my nature. You can't live on this planet for as long as I've lived and you cannot be a member of this profession for as long as I have without running up against extraordinarily complicated, difficult, loving, wonderful, marvelous, frightening, angering monsters and sweethearts—all kinds of people. You can't be an actor without being all those things at different times in your life.

AP: There are some heartbreaking stories of your subjects struggling in their final days with illness and mental problems.

Langella: I think it's everybody's worst nightmare. I mean, I'm 74 now, so of course I'm thinking about it all the time, talking to my kids about it and talking to family members about how to handle it, should something happen. I'm concerned with mortality. I'm very concerned with how the decisions we make throughout our lives affect the last decade or two of the life we have.

Hemingway shows soft side in newly public letters

By BRIDGET MURPHY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP)—Ernest Hemingway shows a tenderness that wasn't part of his usual macho persona in a dozen unpublished letters that became publicly available Wednesday in a collection of the author's papers at the Kennedy presidential library.

In a letter to his friend Gianfranco Ivancich written in Cuba and dated February 1953, Hemingway wrote of euthanizing his cat "Uncle Willie" after it was hit by a car.

"Certainly missed you. Miss Uncle Willie. Have had to shoot people but never anyone I knew and loved for eleven years," the author wrote. "Nor anyone that purred with two broken legs."

The letters span from 1953 to 1960, a year before the prize-winning writer's suicide. Whether typed or written in his curly script, some of the dispatches arrived on personalized, onionskin stationery from his Cuban villa Finca Vigia.

The author also wrote from Europe, while on safari in Africa, and from his home in Idaho.

The two men met in a Venice hotel bar in 1949, bonding despite a two-decade age difference because they'd both suffered leg wounds in war.

"I wish I could write you good letters the way you do," Hemingway wrote in a January 1958 letter from Cuba. "Maybe it is because I write myself out in the other writing."

Experts say the letters demonstrate a side to Hemingway that wasn't part of his persona as an author whose subjects included war, bullfighting, fishing and hunting.

The Kennedy library foundation bought the letters from Ivancich in November, and Hemingway Collection curator Susan Wrynn met the now-elderly gentleman in Italy.

"He still writes every morning," she said Wednesday. "Hemingway encouraged him to."

The letters, as a whole, show the author had a gentle side, and was someone who made time to be fatherly and nurturing to a younger friend, said Susan Beegel, editor of scholarly journal The Hemingway Review.

Hemingway's letter about his cat's death also showed the author's struggle to separate his private and public lives. Hemingway told how a group of tourists arrived at his villa that day.

"I still had the rifle and I explained to them they had come at a bad time and to please understand and go away," he wrote.

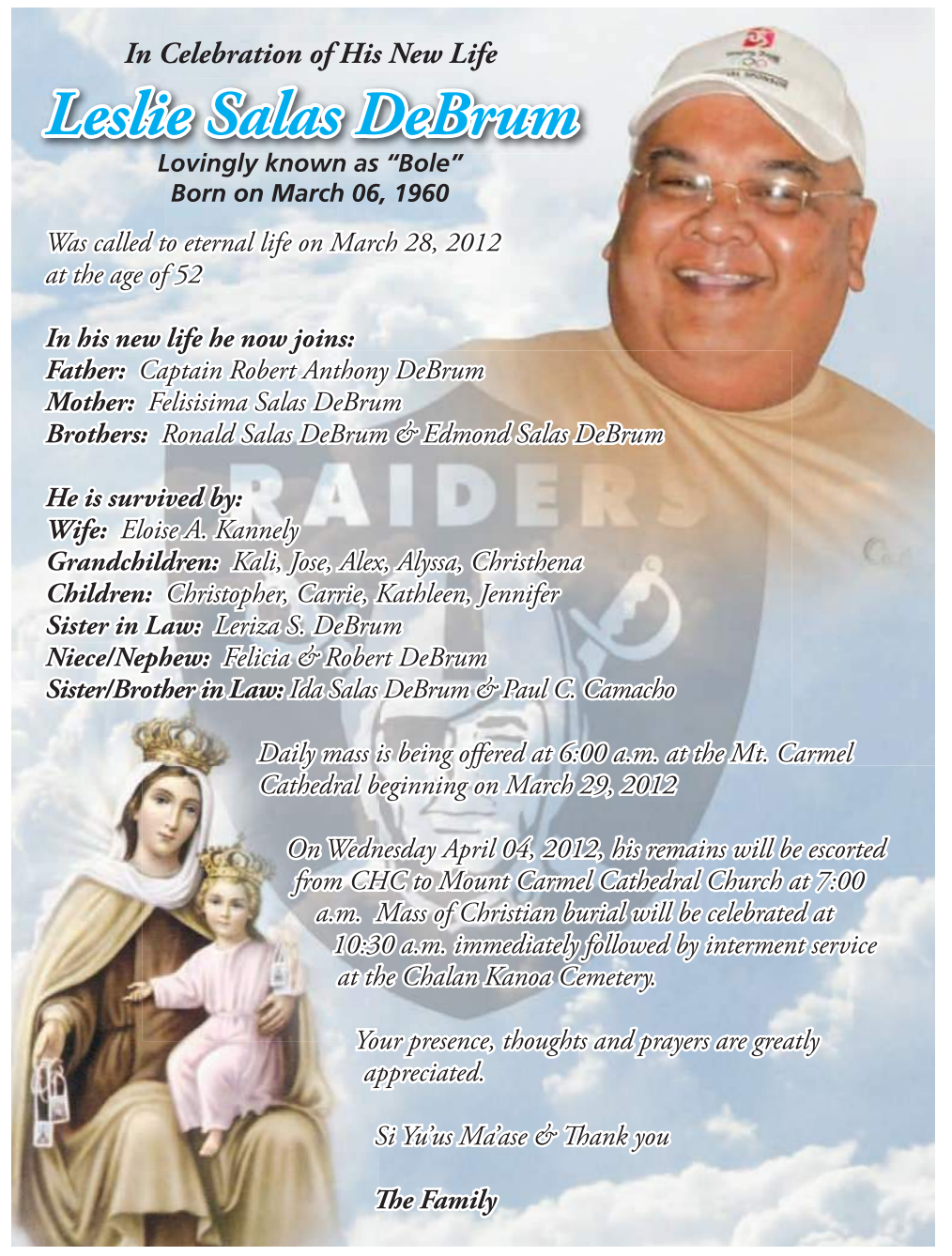
But one wasn't deterred, according to the letter, saying, "We have come at a most interesting time. Just in time to see the great Hemingway cry because he has to kill a cat."

In multiple letters, Hemingway also asks about his friend's sister Adriana Ivancich.

The young Italian socialite became a muse for the writer after they met at a duck-shooting outing in Italy. The woman was the model for the female lead in Hemingway's novel "Across the River and into the Trees," Beegel said.

Experts say Hemingway credited her visit to Cuba in 1950 with inspiring him as he crafted the Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Old Man and the Sea." He wrote of the literary award in a June 1953 letter to his friend, saying, "The book is back on the Best Seller lists due to the ig-noble Prize," a line Beegel sees as self-deprecating humor.

Hemingway went on to win the Nobel Prize in Literature the next year.


In Celebration of His New Life
Leslie Salas DeBrum
Lovingly known as "Bole"
Born on March 06, 1960
Was called to eternal life on March 28, 2012
at the age of 52
In his new life he now joins:
Father: Captain Robert Anthony DeBrum
Mother: Felisisima Salas DeBrum
Brothers: Ronald Salas DeBrum & Edmond Salas DeBrum
He is survived by:
Wife: Eloise A. Kannely
Grandchildren: Kali, Jose, Alex, Alyssa, Christhena
Children: Christopher, Carrie, Kathleen, Jennifer
Sister in Law: Leriza S. DeBrum
Niece/Nephew: Felicia & Robert DeBrum
Sister/Brother in Law: Ida Salas DeBrum & Paul C. Camacho
Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral beginning on March 29, 2012
On Wednesday April 04, 2012, his remains will be escorted from CHC to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church at 7:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. immediately followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase & Thank you
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Wrath Of The Titans

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures presents this follow-up to their mythological sword-and-sandal remake with this sequel penned by Dan Mazeau and David Leslie Johnson. Jonathan Liebesman (Battle: Los Angeles) handles direction duties, with Sam Worthington and Gemma Arterton returning as Perseus and Io.

Mirror Mirror

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Julia Roberts, Lily Collins
Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

One of the most beloved stories of all time is coming to life in the motion picture event for the whole family, Mirror Mirror. A fresh and funny retelling of the Snow White legend, Mirror Mirror features breakout star Lily Collins (The Blind Side) as Snow White, a princess in exile, and Oscar®-winner Julia Roberts as the evil Queen who ruthlessly rules her captured kingdom. Seven courageous rebel dwarfs join forces with Snow White as she fights to reclaim her birthright and win her Prince in this magical comedy filled with jealousy, romance, and betrayal that will capture the hearts and imaginations of audiences the world over. The film also stars Armie Hammer (The Social Network) as the Prince, and Nathan Lane (The Birdcage) as the hapless and bungling servant to the Queen.

★ ★ ★

The Hunger Games

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

21 Jump Street

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
Comedy, Action • Rated R

The Vow

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum
Drama • Rated PG 13

John Carter

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins
Fantasy, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift
Children's/Family • Rated PG

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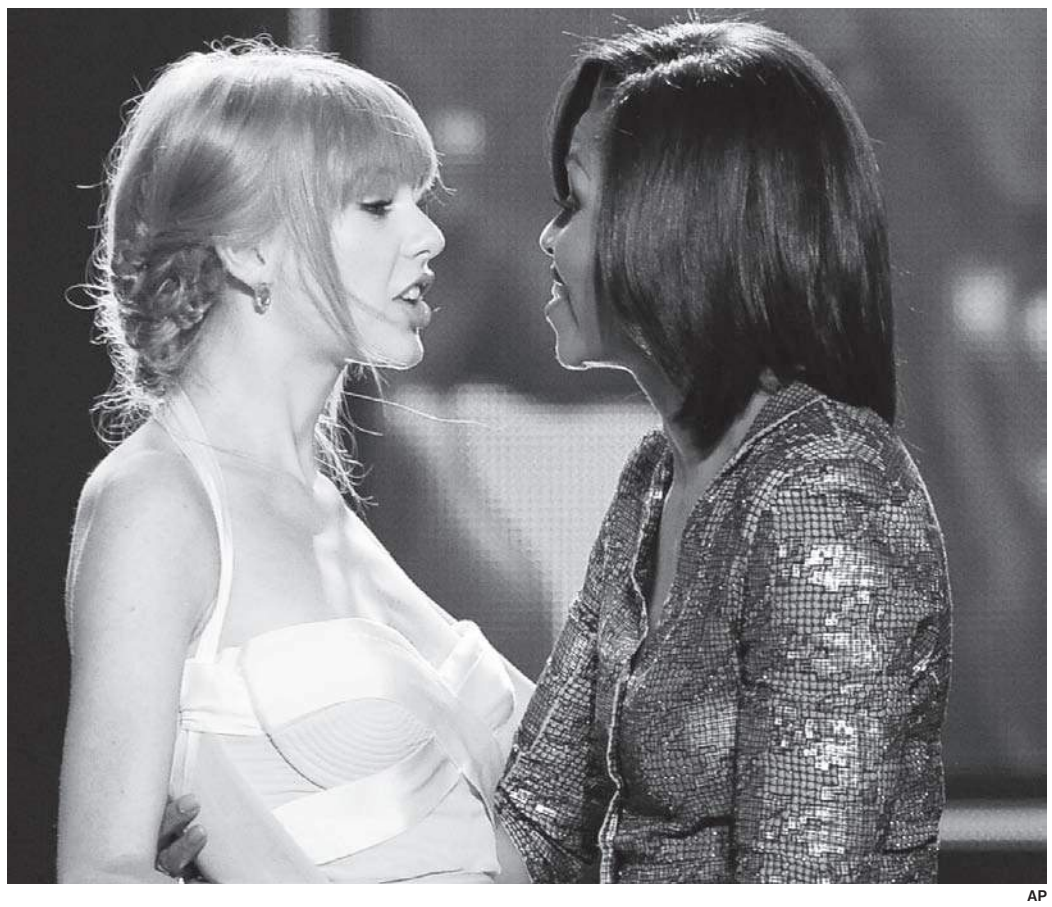
Taylor Swift wins ACM entertainer of the year

By CHRIS TALBOTT
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER



AP

First lady Michelle Obama, right, presents the big help award to Taylor Swift onstage at Nickelodeon's 25th Annual Kids' Choice Awards on Saturday, March 31, 2012 in Los Angeles.

Taylor Swift won her second consecutive entertainer of the year award at the Academy of Country Music Awards on Sunday night, just 24 hours after she was saluted by first lady Michelle Obama for her charity work on The Kids' Choice Awards.

Even by Swift's lofty standards, it was an outstanding weekend—though tempered with a little melancholy.

After hugging her way to the stage, she took a moment to say hello to Kevin McGuire and his family. McGuire, a high school football player and Swift fan who has cancer, was to have been Swift's date to the awards, but he was hospitalized and couldn't make it.

"He's not here but I promised him I would give him a shout-out," Swift said of the Somerdale, New Jersey, resident.

The 22-year-old Swift becomes just the second woman to win the award twice after Carrie Underwood accomplished that feat before Swift. She beat out an all-male field that included Kenny Chesney, who was shut out at the awards after leading all nominees nine. Miranda Lambert, Jason Aldean and Kelly Clarkson were the night's top winners with two awards apiece.

Swift did not perform but was an oft-acknowledged presence. In the monologue co-hosts Reba McEntire and Blake Shelton wondered about that rumored date with Tim New York Jets quarterback Tim Tebow. She also was a presenter. Swift was given The Big Help Award by Obama in Los Angeles just a day earlier.

"I'm so happy about this," Swift said after thanking her followers for giving her the fan-voted award. "I want to say to my fellow nominees in this category I respect you so much and I love you."

Lambert shouted "Seriously?" to her fans as she picked up the trophy for "Four the Record." It was her third album of the year win, tying her with Alabama and George Strait, and she also picked up her third female vocalist of the year, scoring a family sweep as her husband Blake Shelton won male vocalist.

"I own every record in this category and I've been listening and listening, thinking I'm not going to get it," said Lambert, who got a hug from her grandmother and close friends Lady Antebellum before accepting her award. "Every record is amazing, and I'm so thrilled. I will never take this trophy for granted. My albums are my babies. It's what makes me wake up in the mornings."

Lambert's album win wasn't the only surprise of the evening. The Eli Young Band's smash "Crazy Girl" brought the Texas quartet its first win in Las Vegas, for song of the year, and it was something of an upset over superstar acts like Chesney and Lady Antebellum (though the trio did win vocal group of the year). EYB lead singer Mike Eli hoped the group's win was an inspiration for people who hope to someday do the same thing.

"I have dreamed this moment my whole life and I can speak for the rest of these guys up here that they have, too," Eli said. "For those of you watching on television, if you're sitting here and thinking, 'I'm dreaming about this moment and I want to be here,' follow your dreams believe in yourself and do it."

It was the second big upset of the awards: Thompson Square took vocal duo of the year over Sugarland in an early award. "American Idol" winner Scotty McCreery won the fan-voted new artist of the year. Toby Keith won video of the year for "Red Solo Cup."

Aldean told the crowd he trusted his instincts when he was trying to sort out what to do with "Don't You Wanna Stay," which became a steamy, soaring duet that shows Aldean is capable of keeping up vocally with Clarkson. It netted the duo single record and vocal event of the year.

"I kind of thought it needed a female vocal on it and Kelly was the first name I threw out," Aldean told the audience. "And I'm really glad I did because she came in and made a great song, and just took it to a great place."

Added Clarkson: "Thank y'all so much for welcoming me from the pop world!"

Underwood kicked off the night with a hard-charging blast of rock 'n' roll and a sexy black and magenta mini-dress for hew new single "Good Girl," a warning shot to those looking for a lot of twang out of the show.

From Underwood's rockin' new single to U2 singer Bono's introduction of Dierks Bentley via video from Ireland to KISS in full makeup awarding Lady Antebellum with yet another trophy, the ACMs showed off the modern flavor of country with all sorts of multi-genre mashups.

LL Cool J and Keith Urban banded together to salute veterans, co-hosts Shelton and Reba McEntire skewered Randy Travis and wondered whether Swift actually went on that rumored date with Tim Tebow, and Toby Keith walked through the crowd as he sang "Red Solo Cup" with the help of Carrot Top.

Actor-comedian-banjo player Steve Martin joined Rascal Flatts on "Banjo" after a brief tribute to country pioneer Earl Scruggs, who died last week.

Martina McBride and Train's Pat Monahan teamed up to help New Jersey couple Christina Davidson and Frank Tucci get married on stage while they sang McBride's "Marry Me." Davidson and Tucci's ceremony—quick even for notoriously quickie Vegas weddings—went on behind the singers during the performance and fans could hear the bride and groom say "I will" before their first kiss as a married couple, bringing the crowd to its feet.

And in one of the night's oddest juxtapositions, "Two and a Half Men" star Ashton Kutcher in cowboy hat sang George Strait before awarding Lambert female vocalist of the year.

WINNERS' LIST

Winners at the 47th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards from Las Vegas:

- **Entertainer of the year:** Taylor Swift
- **Top male vocalist:** Blake Shelton
- **Top female vocalist:** Miranda Lambert
- **Top vocal group:** Lady Antebellum
- **Top vocal duo:** Thompson Square
- **Top new artist:** Scotty McCreery
- **Album of the year:** "Four the Record," Miranda Lambert
- **Single record of the year:** "Don't You Wanna Stay," Jason Aldean & Kelly Clarkson
- **Song of the year:** "Crazy Girl," Eli Young Band
- **Video of the year:** "Red Solo Cup," Toby Keith
- **Vocal event of the year:** "Don't You Wanna Stay," Jason Aldean & Kelly Clarkson

Sarah Palin to co-host NBC's 'Today' on Tuesday

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC's "Today" show is bringing Sarah Palin on board as a co-host - for one morning, this Tuesday.

The announcement was posted Sunday on NBC's website. It says the former Alaska governor and GOP vice presidential candidate will "reveal a different side" than viewers have seen before.

The booking is clearly an attempt to blunt the impact of "Today" alumna Katie Couric's weeklong return to morning TV as a guest host on ABC's "Good Morning America." Couric joined ABC last year and was co-host of longtime ratings leader "Today" for 15 years before leaving for CBS in 2006.

Besides Palin's surprise star turn on "Today," Tuesday's edition will also include "a big NBC announcement" by Ryan Seacrest. That's according to a Twitter posting by NBC on Sunday night.

'Hunger Games' earns $61.1M to top 'Titans' sequel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Hunger Games" is still the first item on the menu for movie fans, taking in $61.1 million to remain the No. 1 film in its second weekend.

Studio estimates Sunday put Lionsgate's "The Hunger Games" well ahead of Sam Worthington's action sequel "Wrath of the Titans," which opened in second-place with $34.2 million.

That's far below the $61.2 million opening of its predecessor, "Clash of the Titans," two years ago. But distributor Warner Bros. opened "Clash" on Easter weekend, when young fans already were off school and in holiday mode. With Easter coming next weekend, the studio expects "Wrath" to catch up to "Clash" in the next few weeks.

Julia Roberts' comic "Snow White" reinvention "Mirror Mirror" debuted at No. 3 with $19 million. Released by Relativity Media, the film casts Roberts as the wicked queen opposite Lily Collins as Snow White.

1. "**The Hunger Games**," $61.1 million.
2. "**Wrath of the Titans**," $34.2 million.
3. "**Mirror Mirror**," $19 million.
4. "**21 Jump Street**," $15 million.
5. "**Dr. Seuss' the Lorax**," $8 million.
6. "**John Carter**," $2 million.
7. "**Salmon Fishing in the Yemen**," $1.3 million.
8. "**Act of Valor**," $1 million.
9. "**A Thousand Words**," $915,000.
10. "**Journey 2: The Mysterious Island**," $835,000.

Starring Jennifer Lawrence as a teen forced to compete in a televised death match, "The Hunger Games" lifted its domestic total to $251 million after just 10 days.

"The Hunger Games" shot past "Dr. Seuss' the Lorax" ($189.6 million domestically) to become the top-grossing film this year. It added $34.8 million overseas to raise its international total to $113.9 million and its worldwide haul to about $365 million.

While lagging behind the overseas business of such teen-based literary adaptations as the "Harry Potter" and "Twilight" movies, "The Hunger Games" is on a pace to surpass the domestic revenues of nearly all of those films.

"The Hunger Games" is headed well above $300 million domestically, a level reached by just three of the eight "Harry Potter" films and only once by any of the "Twilight" flicks.

In limited release, the Weinstein Co. documentary "Bully" opened strongly with $115,000 in five theaters, a healthy result for a non-fiction film.

Bieber, Berry slimed at Kids Choice Awards

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

AP

Justin Bieber gets slimed after accepting the award for favorite male singer onstage at Nickelodeon's 25th Annual Kids' Choice Awards on Saturday, March 31, 2012 in Los Angeles.

At the 25th annual Kids' Choice Awards, the slime runneth over.

Host Will Smith opened the 25th annual Kids' Choice Awards promising a record amount of the show's trademark green gunk. Though some 20 awards are presented at the KCAs, the real suspense isn't who will take home a "Blimp" (the show's Oscar), it's when and on whom the slime will spill.

It's like a baptism into kiddome that can come at any moment: from a hidden bucket, dumped from the rafters or exploded from little orange blimps.

"No one is safe from the slime!" screamed Smith. "You have to earn the slime! It's an honor."

Halle Berry was the first to be covered, but she was far from alone. She was joined by "Twilight" star Taylor Lautner (who won favorite "butt-kicker"), "Glee" star Chris Colfer and male singer winner Justin Bieber, who was utterly drenched along with Smith at the end of the show.

The KCAs are Nickelodeon's annual celebration for kids, and it's often the most-watched children's program of the year. They draw a considerable roster of stars looking to thank their smallest fans and cater to their youngest demographics.

"This is, like, the coolest award show ever," said "Twilight" star Kristen Stewart, accepting the award for favorite movie actress.

Smith, himself a 10-time Blimp winner, started the show with an elaborate, digitally-animated skydive from Nickelodeon's trademark blimp. Smith was then hoisted from the rafters to the stage of the Galen Center at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where thousands of glow-stick waving fans cheered him—including first lady Michelle Obama.

Obama later presented "the big help" award for charity work to Taylor Swift. Upon receiving the award, the pop star said, "I am freaking out."

Nickelodeon introduces many kid-friendly quirks to the usual award show festivities. It rolls out an orange carpet, rather than a red one, and envelopes are the last way winners are announced. Saturday night's choices came by way of a sword eater, a statue impersonator and giant heads held aloft from the crowd.

Winners are chosen from voting online. Selena Gomez won for both favorite TV actress and female singer. Adam Sandler took home the award for favorite movie actor. And Katy Perry, shortly after performing, was given the award for favorite voice in an animated movie for "Smurfs."

"The only reason why I'm still here today—and remember this—is because I've never grown up!" Perry told the young audience.

More than 7.3 million watched last year's awards. This year, Nickelodeon badly needs the KCAs to continue such a success. In March, for the first time, the Disney Channel beat out Nickelodeon in average total daily viewers—a title Nickelodeon had held every month since 1995.

Nickelodeon's own series "Victorious" won best TV show. Jake Short, star of the Disney Channel's "A.N.T. Farm," won best TV actor.

But the most ceremonious moment of the KCAs is the slimey finale. The honor—which Smith said had been chosen by online votes—went to Bieber, who made a surprise appearance late in the show. Smith clutched Bieber as fountains of slime poured out across the stage, while Obama—splattered by a few drops—danced in the seats.

Sandler sets worst-movie record with Razzies sweep

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Adam Sandler and friends have scored a new high—or low—among voters of the Razzies, an Academy Awards spoof that presents prizes for the year's worst movies.

Sandler's "Jack and Jill" managed a Razzies first on Sunday, claiming 10 awards to sweep every single category. Along with the movie's worst-picture award, Sandler won for both worst actor and actress for his dual roles in "Jack and Jill," in which he plays a family man and his own pesky twin sister.

"He didn't play triplets, but he couldn't have won more awards if he had," said Razzies founder John Wilson.

Sandler also shared the "Jack and Jill" Razzies for worst ensemble, worst screen couple opposite either himself or co-stars Al Pacino or Katie Holmes and worst screenplay as a co-writer on the movie.

Pacino won as worst supporting actor for playing himself in "Jack and Jill," while Sandler pal David Spade was named worst supporting actress for his own cross-dressing role in the movie.

It's the only movie in the 32-year history of the Razzies to win every prize.

But the Razzies did not overlook Sandler's other starring role from last year. Sandler's worst-actor prize came for both "Jack and Jill" and his earlier comedy "Just Go With It." Dennis Dugan, the filmmaker behind both comedies, was named worst director for both flicks.

"Jack and Jill" also was picked as worst remake, rip-off or sequel, billed by Razzies voters as a remake or rip-off of Ed Wood's cross-dressing cult favorite "Glen or Glenda?"

Despite the usual bad reviews Sandler receives, "Just Go With It" was a $100 million hit like most of his comedies. But even Sandler fans had second thoughts about "Jack and Jill," which took in only $74 million, one of the worst results among his mainstream comedies.

"Adam Sandler has a pretty much basic attitude of, `No matter how dumb I make it, my fans are going to pay to see it,'" Wilson said. "I guess it's more about the complete lack of any genuine effort or concern or pride. An attitude of this is good enough, but when you consider what they're charging for movie tickets today, it wasn't good enough.

"It was good enough to get our attention. If you work with the attitude that you're just going to be good enough, then you're probably good enough for the Razzies."

The awards were announced at a gag ceremony Sunday night at a magic shop in Santa Monica, Calif. Razzie winners usually are announced the night before the Oscars, but organizers this time decided to move out of Hollywood's busy awards season and do their show on April Fool's Day.

But it could be a one-time experiment. Wilson said he got feedback from voters of the Golden Raspberry Award Foundation, which anyone can join for a membership fee, that they prefer handing out their prizes around Oscar time.

"I think our members prefer the faux glamor of having it be Oscar eve," Wilson said.

Cheating husband will need support to cope with divorce

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been separated from my husband, "Fred," for several months because of his infidelity. He is pushing to move back in together and has been very insecure and overly clingy. He constantly accuses me of not paying enough attention to him, no matter what I do or how much time I spend with him.

Fred and I have two children, so this has been difficult for all of us. But I'm frustrated with his disrespect for my space and seriously considering divorce. I want to tell him, but I'm worried about his reaction since he cries every time I mention anything that implies that I might "give up on us." He was married once before, and told me that he had to stay with his brother for a while afterward to make sure he wouldn't hurt himself.

His family lives 400 miles away, and he wants to visit them soon. Would it be wrong of me to call him while he's there and tell him it's over? I feel he'll need support when he gets the news, and I don't want him to be alone. He's a good father and good friend. I do love and care about him, and don't want him to do anything that will hurt himself or his children, but I can't stay married to someone who cheats on me. Any suggestions?

TORN IN PIECES

DEAR TORN: To stay married to someone because you think he might hurt himself would be giving in to emotional blackmail. Fred is clingy and needy because he now realizes what his cheating may have cost him. Of course it's a turn-off.

However, before ending the marriage, it's important that you understand your disgust with him is mixed with your anger at his betrayal. That's why you could both benefit—and communicate more honestly and safely—if you schedule some appointments with a licensed marriage and family counselor. If, during that time, you decide you still want a divorce, the place to tell him would be in the therapist's office. You won't be alone. He will have emotional support, and his family can be told immediately afterward.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 46-year-old married man and have been with my wife for 23 years. We were both married before and have two children from our prior marriages. Our children are now grown and live their own lives.

I have recently learned that I'm terminally ill and, as I come to the end of my journey here on Earth, I need some advice. My son, 26, does not know he's not my biological child. His mother was pregnant when she met me and we never told him. As I make my final preparations, I am conflicted as to whether I should. How do I address this? Or do I even address it all?

If I do it before I pass away, I'm afraid he will be upset and angry and turn away from me. If I do it afterward, via taped video message or handwritten letter, I won't be there to answer the questions he's bound to have. Where do I go from here, Abby?

UNSURE IN MISSOURI

DEAR UNSURE: Please accept my sympathy for your poor prognosis. Your situation is regrettable, but please don't shoulder all the blame. Your first wife shares some of it, too.

The young man has the right to know that, while you love him and have raised him as your own, he isn't your biological child. He should be told before your death, in person, and nothing should be left out. If possible, his mother should participate in the conversation. And if she knows who the father is, your son should have access to an accurate family medical history.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

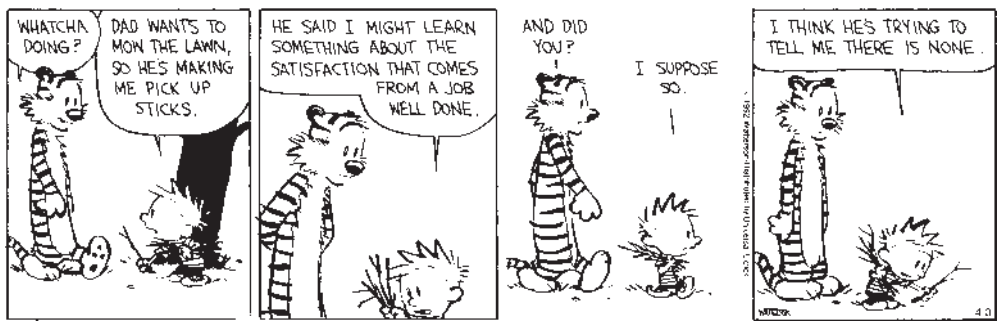
■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

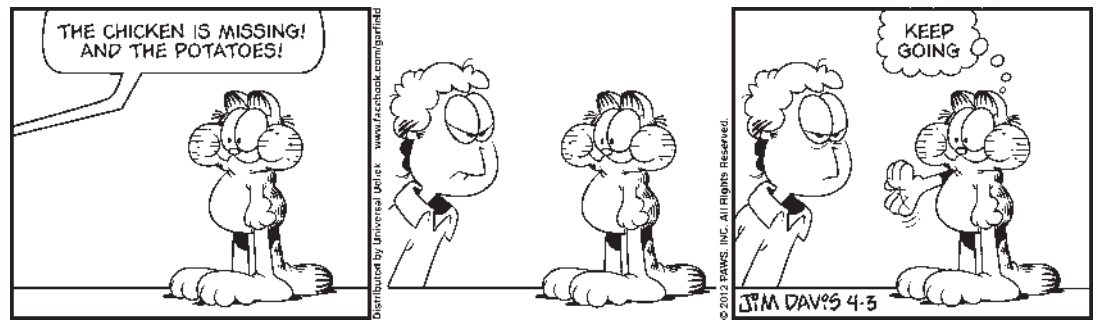
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHATCHA DOING?
DAD WANTS TO MOW THE LAWN, SO HE'S MAKING ME PICK UP STICKS.
HE SAID I MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THE SATISFACTION THAT COMES FROM A JOB WELL DONE.
AND DID YOU?
I SUPPOSE SO.
I THINK HE'S TRYING TO TELL ME THERE IS NONE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


THE CHICKEN IS MISSING! AND THE POTATOES!
KEEP GOING
JIM DAVIS 4-3
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY, EVERYBODY! WHAT DO WE WANT ON OUR PIZZA?
CHEESE ONLY!
TRIPLE SAUSAGE!
VEGGIES!
WHAT ABOUT ANCHOVIES?!
BOO!!
HEY! IF YOU'RE GOING TO BOO A FISH, BOO A PUFFER! THAT GUY'S POISON.
4-3

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

No, DAD. YOU ONLY USE THE BLACK REMOTE TO TURN THE TV ON. THE GRAY REMOTE IS THE CABLE BOX REMOTE.
USE THAT TO CHANGE CHANNELS, BUT FIRST USE THE SKINNY REMOTE TO TURN OFF THE BLU-RAY PLAYER.
OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS GONE FROM CHILD SUPPORT TO TECH SUPPORT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

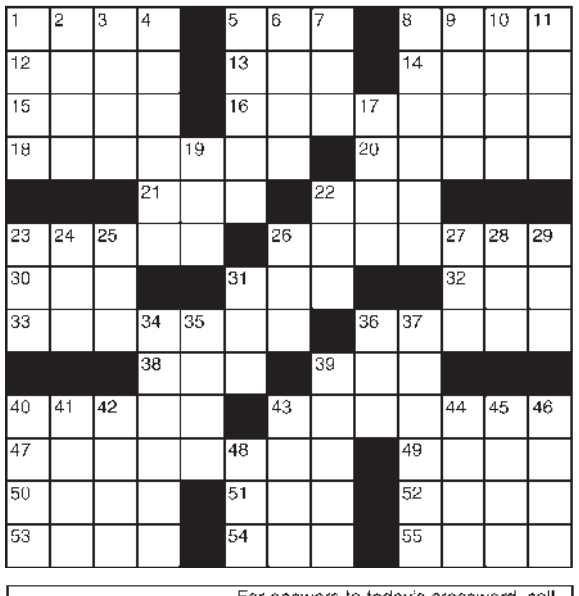
ACROSS
1 McNally's partner
5 Lawyers' org.
8 Verve
12 Sandwich cookie
13 Turf
14 Interoffice note
15 Rip
16 Alpine coatings
18 Drum on which cable is wound
20 "Siddhartha" author
21 Whatever amount
22 Teeny
23 Long-legged bird
26 Oven in an Indian restaurant
30 Help
31 Monkey suit
32 Shock and —
33 Entrance rug
36 Got along
38 Summertime mo.
39 Cover
40 Swiss money
43 Griffith's lawyer role
47 Longtime airplane manufacturer
49 Capri, e.g.
50 Cain's victim
51 Fish eggs
52 Online journal
53 Existed
54 Massachusetts cape
55 Drunkards

DOWN
1 Campus mil. grp.
2 Neighborhood
3 Tide type
4 On the back
5 Analyze ore
6 German city
7 Commotion
8 Ran the show
9 Meadows
10 Pumps up the volume
11 Schnozz
17 Timely question?
19 Stick with a kick
22 Grow
23 Despondent
24 Uncle (Sp.)
25 Altar affirmative
26 Egypt's boy king
27 Rowing need
28 Have bills
29 Roulette bet
31 Playground game
34 Cause anger
35 Greatly
36 Healthy
37 Goes off script
39 Burdened
40 Imperfection
41 PJs coverup
42 Computer brand
43 "You're putting —!"
44 Norway's capital
45 Coagulate
46 Small barrels
48 Historic period

Solution time: 21 mins.

G	A	P	S	■	D	A	B	■	P	E	R	U
A	R	E	A	■	O	N	E	■	E	M	U	S
L	I	E	F	■	N	I	N	E	P	I	N	S
A	L	P	A	C	A	■	T	E	S	T	E	R
■	■	■	R	A	T	A	■	K	I	T	■	■
N	I	H	I	L	I	S	M	■	N	I	P	S
A	R	A	■	M	O	T	E	T	■	N	I	A
B	A	R	D	■	N	I	T	R	O	G	E	N
■	■	A	I	R	■	R	A	I	L	■	■	■
O	W	N	S	U	P	■	L	O	I	T	E	R
N	I	G	H	T	O	W	L	■	V	A	R	Y
C	L	U	E	■	L	E	I	■	E	R	I	E
E	Y	E	S	■	E	T	C	■	S	O	N	S

Yesterday's answer 4-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cobie Smulders, 30; Jennie Garth, 40; Eddie Murphy, 51; Alec Baldwin, 54.

Happy Birthday: Know the truth before you make a decision that will affect your life. Don't let your past or someone you used to associate with ruin what you are working so hard to accomplish now. Put the past behind you and concentrate on what lies ahead: a new beginning and an opportunity to aggressively pursue your dreams. Your numbers are 5, 9, 14, 19, 27, 33, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take on opposition with passion and conviction. Proving your point will be easy if you use your imagination and creativity to make what you have to offer unique and attractive. Simplicity will be the key to your success. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep things in perspective, especially when dealing with family, friends or youngsters. Honesty will play a role in whether you get the help you need. Stick to a reasonable budget. Someone will complain if you take on too much. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Not everything will be out in the open regarding personal matters. If you want to know the truth, ask direct questions. Don't expect to like what you hear, but at least you will know where you stand. It's time to make changes. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Different philosophies will interest you. Getting to know someone with an entirely different background will change the way you see the world. A strong partnership with someone you can learn from will help to broaden your outlook and direction. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Finish what you start. Show everyone what you are capable of doing. Opportunity will come your way professionally if you expand your options and qualifications. A change in the way you present your skills will lead to greater success. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be faced with uncertainty and anxiety if you mishandle an untimely situation. You will look like a genius if you focus on being practical and rely on who and what you know. Don't let emotional matters inhibit your success. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Concentrate on making your home more comfortable and affordable. A romantic situation may not be as it appears. Bide your time and let the other person make the first move. Ulterior motives are apparent when dealing with business or personal partners. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You have all the right answers and can make moves professionally and personally that will help turn any negatives into positives. Communication will be the key to getting what you want and gaining the respect of someone unique. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Talk to people in the know and get advice regarding your home life. A couple of changes will work wonders to get you back on track or improve your current living conditions. Don't do anything that will jeopardize your position. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put more into your plans. Remembering old goals will help you decipher where you should put your efforts now. A well-thought-out plan will bring you good fortune. Invest in your own talent and initiative. Fix up your digs. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The truth and what you want to believe will not coincide. Take a closer look at reality and you will know instinctively what you must do to move forward. The right move now will result in personal success. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Being secretive will backfire. Keep things out in the open so you aren't accused of hiding pertinent information from people you want to do business with or get to know better. Don't mix love and romance with business. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have spunk and determination. You aren't afraid to stand alone.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	5		6		9	1	
		7	9			5		
					8			
		2					6	
5			4		7			8
	9					3		
			7					
		1			6	2		
	6	8		9		7	5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	1	4	3	8	7	5	2
8	5	3	9	7	2	1	4	6
2	7	4	6	5	1	3	9	8
3	4	9	7	1	6	8	2	5
1	8	7	2	4	5	9	6	3
5	6	2	8	9	3	4	7	1
7	1	5	3	2	4	6	8	9
9	3	6	5	8	7	2	1	4
4	2	8	1	6	9	5	3	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOWIE MANDEL — Solution: 10 letters

S	R	M	G	C	W	E	M	Y	H	R	D	O	M	O
T	U	E	R	O	E	D	I	V	I	E	F	I	N	E
A	E	I	H	A	O	G	O	L	B	O	G	E	A	E
G	S	S	T	T	F	D	E	B	T	R	L	M	J	C
E	T	T	N	E	O	Y	O	N	I	A	E	N	U	I
M	E	E	S	U	S	M	O	E	E	R	I	M	D	V
H	K	P	M	T	S	R	F	D	I	P	O	I	G	R
C	C	R	R	O	O	U	O	C	S	E	K	O	E	E
U	I	A	E	T	N	N	A	N	L	C	P	C	M	S
O	T	C	G	N	R	S	I	T	I	A	O	E	O	R
T	B	A	Y	O	K	L	T	G	N	Ⓧ	U	L	C	R
T	W	E	L	C	M	I	A	E	H	I	Ⓐ	G	O	I
N	A	A	A	E	L	M	L	A	R	T	A	Ⓡ	H	R
O	E	L	R	C	N	E	G	O	O	S	E	P	Ⓣ	L
D	B	G	K	D	H	T	D	N	I	L	B	O	O	K

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Yesterday's Answer: Tracy

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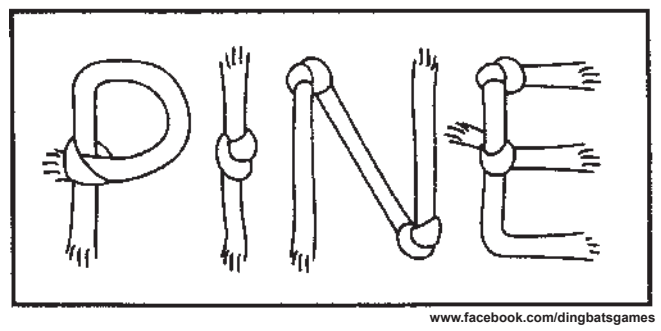

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Kansas, Kentucky to meet in power-program final

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Jayhawks or Wildcats, take your pick. Either can make a case for this being "their" year.

For Kansas, a season that started with low expectations keeps getting better, filled with high-wire comebacks and an inescapable feeling that this was simply meant to be.

For Kentucky, a cadre of NBA-caliber players have had the word "champion" practically imprinted on their chests since they gathered at Rupp Arena for the season's first practice.

They meet Monday for the NCAA championship, a history-filled matchup between the two winningest programs in college basketball history. This is the one-and-dones at Kentucky vs. juniors and seniors at Kansas; Anthony Davis vs. Thomas Robinson in a frontcourt battle of All-Americans; a title-game coaching rematch between John Calipari and Bill Self; a high-stakes meeting between one team whose founder invented the game and another that likes to claim its legendary coach perfected it.

Kentucky (37-2), in search of its eighth national title but its first since 1998, has five, maybe six, players who will be playing in the NBA soon. Most are freshmen and sophomores. None are better than Davis, the 6-foot-10 freshman who had 18 points, 14 rebounds and five blocks in Kentucky's 69-61 win over Louisville in the semifinals.

"Anthony Davis is a great player, but he's not Superman," Self said, clearly ignoring the fact that, only moments earlier, Davis had been walking around the Superdome with his practice jersey slung across his shoulders like a cape.

As he has all year and all tournament, Calipari has not so much defended as explained his coaching philosophy, which is to go after the very best players and not demand they graduate, but only that they play team basketball for whatever amount of time they spend in the Commonwealth.

"I don't like the rules," Calipari said. "I want Anthony to come back and be my point guard next year. It's really what I want. There's only two solutions to it. Either I can recruit players who are not as good as the players I'm recruiting or I can try to convince guys who should leave to stay for me."

AP

Kentucky head coach John Calipari talks with Kansas head coach Bill Self, right, during a television interview at the NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament Sunday, April 1, 2012, in New Orleans.

He won't do either. By pulling no punches, the coach finds himself working with the most talent—Davis and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist are likely lottery picks, while Terrence Jones, Marquis Teague and Doron Lamb are among the others with first-round potential.

Calipari is a win away from the first national title of a stormy and controversial career, one that began as a volunteer assistant at Kansas. His first two trips to the Final Four have been vacated because of NCAA violations. Though his 2008 trip with Memphis is no longer in the record books, it's clearly emblazoned in his memory.

That team, led by Derrick Rose, had one essential flaw—bad free-throw shooting—and the coach dismissed it every time he was asked about it in the days and weeks leading to his final against Self and the Jayhawks. The Tigers missed four free throws down the stretch and blew a nine-point lead in what turned into an overtime loss that gave Kansas its third NCAA title.

Lessons learned? Well, Calipari does make his team run more after bad free-throw shooting nights.

But regrets? Not many.

"At the end of the day, we had a nine-point lead," he said. "I have to figure something out. Go shoot the free throws myself, do something to get us out of that gym and I didn't."

A year later, Cal was out of Memphis and putting the pieces in place for his run at Kentucky. It began with a trip to the Elite Eight, continued last year with a spot in the Final Four and oddsmakers have Kentucky as a 6.5-point favorite to seal the deal this year against Kansas.

"Doesn't bother us," Kansas guard Tyshawn Taylor said. "They've got high expectations, and they had a great year so the expectations should be high. What we think, though, is that we match up with them well. We feel confident going into this game."

And why not?

Though the talent level may not be as strong as Kentucky's from top to bottom, the Jayhawks (32-6) get more reinforcement every game that anything is possible.

On Saturday, they overcame a 13-point deficit against Ohio State for their latest escape act. Before that in the tournament, they won close ones against Purdue, North Carolina State and North Carolina. They were comeback kids in the regular season, as well—a season that began with low expectations for a roster that got hit hard by graduation and other departures, then fell to 7-3 after an ugly, unexpected home loss to Davidson.

"I was a little frustrated because I thought that we were underachieving, underperforming," Self said. "I thought we were a stale team. I thought we were slow. I thought we didn't play with great energy. I thought the things we had to do to be successful, we weren't committing to doing them."

Somewhere in that mess, however, he saw the potential.

Much of it shined through thanks to the development of Robinson, known for his first two years in college as a role player with NBA skills. He was allowed to blossom when he got regular playing time this season and is averaging 17.7 points and 11.7 rebounds a game. He was the only unanimous AP All-American and was in the conversation, along with Davis, in most of the player-of-the-year voting.

"We know how good Thomas Robinson is," Calipari said. "We all up here know. We went against him in New York. He is as good as they get. He's a vicious competitor, great around a rim, expanded his game."

These teams met in November at Madison Square Garden, a 75-65 Kentucky victory in the second game of the season. There wasn't much conversation about that one Sunday.

More noteworthy were all the historical aspects of this game.

Basketball, of course, was invented by James Naismith, who later went on to establish the KU basketball program in 1898.

Adolph Rupp grew up in Kansas and learned the game under Naismith and the next KU coach, Phog Allen, then moved to Kentucky. Over four decades, "the man in the brown suit" won 876 games and four NCAA championships.

So many iconic names have followed at both places: Wilt Chamberlain, Larry Brown, Danny Manning at KU; Dan Issel, Wes Unseld, Rick Pitino at Kentucky.

Come Monday night, somebody else could get their name up in the rafters at Allen Fieldhouse or Rupp Arena.

"I dreamed about it as soon as I saw the brackets," Self said. "I did look. I said, `How cool would it be to play Kentucky in the finals?' You guys know better than me, but when do you have the two winningest programs in the history of ball playing each other? I don't know when. From a historic standpoint, I think that's really cool.'"

Source: NFLPA hires lawyer for Saints bounties

By BARRY WILNER and HOWARD FENDRICH
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITERS

The NFL Players Association told players involved in the New Orleans Saints' bounty case that there is a chance they could face criminal charges and it hired outside counsel to represent them if needed.

While Commissioner Roger Goodell weighs how to punish the two dozen or so players the league says might be connected to the bounties, the NFLPA also suggested that players have a lawyer and union representative present when they are interviewed by NFL investigators.

The union plans to head to New York this week to meet with league security staff and review additional evidence, taking up the NFL on an offer it made more than once.

The latest steps were described to The Associated Press on Sunday by two people familiar with the case. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

The NFL has said that 22 to 27 defensive players were part of the Saints' pay-for-pain bounty pool, which awarded thousands of dollars of cash bonuses from 2009-11 for vicious hits that knocked targeted opponents out of games. One example, according to the league: Linebacker Jonathan Vilma offered $10,000 to any New Orleans player who sidelined Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre during the 2010 NFC championship game.

On March 21, Goodell suspended Saints coach Sean Payton for all of next season, general manager Mickey Loomis for eight games, assistant coach Joe Vitt for six games, and former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams for at least one season. Goodell also fined the Saints $500,000 and took away two second-round draft picks.

The appeals process is expected to begin this week.

When those punishments were announced, Goodell said he would wait for NFLPA input before determining how to discipline players who participated in the bounties.

"While I will not address player conduct at this time, I am profoundly troubled by the fact that players—including leaders among the defensive players—embraced this program so enthusiastically and participated with what appears to have been a deliberate lack of concern for the well-being of their fellow players," Goodell said.

The NFL has asked the union for contact information for players. The NFLPA, meanwhile, was told by the league it could try to speak to Payton, Loomis, Vitt and Williams.

The league has not given any timetable for when Goodell will decide on penalties for the players, creating uncertainty for the Saints—as well as other teams who might now have any of the players involved.

Gabe Feldman, a law professor and director of the Tulane Sports Law Program, said shortly after the NFL made its investigation public that he didn't expect any criminal or civil legal action specifically tied to the bounties.

"They're difficult cases to bring, because it's hard to prove the injury was caused by a tackle with specific intent to injure, rather than a regular tackle," Feldman explained at the time. "We all know injuries are a part of football. There can't be legal liability anytime there is an injury. Otherwise, you can't have football."

Hunter Mahan wins Houston Open

HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—Hunter Mahan doesn't dwell on bad shots anymore, and he says that's leading to more good ones. Mahan shot a 1-under 71 on Sunday to win the Houston Open, edging out Carl Pettersson by one stroke and becoming the first two-time champion on the tour in 2012.

The 29-year-old Mahan finished 16 under for the tournament and moved to No. 4 in the world ranking, the first time he's ever been the highest-ranked American.

"That's a pretty surreal thing to think about," Mahan said. "It shows me what I can do, shows me what I'm capable of."

The 29-year-old Mahan feels as if he finally has the mental approach to match his physical skills. He credits Canadian sports psychologist Jim Murphy with teaching him to enjoy the game more, and that's led to better results.

"It's easy to let your mind run wild and get down on yourself," Mahan said. "That's what I used to do. I'm trying to pump myself up more and just believe in myself."

Mahan earned his fifth career victory. He has six top-25 finishes in seven starts this year, including a victory over Rory McIlroy in the final of the Match Play Championships in February.

"You've got to enjoy this stuff," Mahan said. "It's kind of an honor and a pleasure to be in these tough situations. This is what you work for, to be in these fun, tough, tight situations."

The new attitude got another pressurized test on Sunday.

Standing on the 18th tee with a one-stroke lead, Mahan confidently hit his tee shot down the middle of the fairway, then knocked his 203-yard approach to 21 feet. He gave caddie John Wood a high-five when the ball landed safely on the green.

"Absolutely awesome," Wood said.

The tournament became the run-up event to the Masters in 2007, and Mahan has never felt better about his game heading to Augusta.

"I feel very capable of playing great golf, and I feel like I showed myself I don't have to be perfect to win," he said. "That's a great thing to feel, for sure."

Pettersson (71) finished with eight pars for his second runner-up finish this year. Third-round leader Louis Oosthuizen (75) was another shot back at 14 under.

Mahan began the day two shots behind Oosthuizen, who lost the lead with two double bogeys on his front nine.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson (71), Keegan Bradley (71), Brian Davis (74) and Jeff Overton (68) all finished 12 under.

Three-time major champion Ernie Els finished 10 under and fell short in his bid to earn an automatic invitation to this week's Masters. Els needed a victory to avoid missing Augusta for the first time since 1993.

AP

Hunter Mahan poses with the championship trophy after winning the Houston Open golf tournament, Sunday, April 1, 2012, in Humble, Texas.

"It's not going to change my life, either way," Els said. "I've played many out there. It's one of those things."

The Masters could offer a special invitation to Els, like tournament officials did for Greg Norman in 2002.

Els has played well this year, earning top-five finishes at the Transitions and Bay Hill. But he said Sunday he would decline an invitation if he received one at the last minute.

"To go through all of this, and then get an invite, I wouldn't take it," he said. "They can keep it."

The problems for Oosthuizen began with a three-putt on No. 2. He holed a downhill 45-footer for a birdie on No. 3, but hit his tee shot on No. 5 into a divot and missed the green with his approach. He botched a chip and two-putted from 20 feet.

Oosthuizen pulled his approach to the par-5 8th into the native area, leading to his second double bogey.

"I'm not going to be bothered about the way I played the front nine," Oosthuizen said. "I had a few horrific lies and bounces. It happens."

Mahan parred the first eight holes, then finally took advantage of Oosthuizen's collapse with a 5-foot birdie putt on No. 9. Pettersson missed a 19-foot par putt on No. 10, leaving Mahan in the lead by himself at 16 under.

Mahan found a greenside bunker on No. 14 and bogeyed, then hooked his tee shot to the 204-yard, par-3 16th. He pitched onto the green, and the ball rolled down a slope to within 16 inches for an easy par.

"I thought it was going to be good," Mahan said, "but a tap-in there was huge."

Pettersson left an 18-foot birdie putt short on the 488-yard 18th, the hardest hole on the course, with a pond running down the length of the fairway on the left. Like Els, Pettersson needed a win to earn a trip to Augusta.

Lakers beat Warriors behind Bryant's 40

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 40 points and Pau Gasol added 26 as the Los Angeles Lakers found themselves rallying for the second straight game against one of the West conference's worst teams, beating the Golden State Warriors 120-112 on Sunday night.

Ramon Sessions added 23 points in his best game since being traded to the Lakers two weeks ago. Gasol and reserve Troy Murphy had 11 rebounds each after All-Star center Andrew Bynum sprained his left ankle in the first quarter of the Lakers' eighth consecutive home win against the Warriors.

David Lee led six Warriors in double figures with 27 points. Klay Thompson added 18, Nate Robinson 17, and Richard Jefferson 16 for Golden State, which lost its fifth in a row and 10th in their last 12.

Thunder 92, Bulls 78

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 27 points and Kevin Durant added 26 points and 10 rebounds as the Oklahoma City Thunder used a dominating third quarter to beat Chicago.

The Thunder pulled away by outscoring Chicago 31-12 in the third quarter, allowing the Bulls to make only five of their 21 shots.

Oklahoma City clinched a playoff berth in the process, with the help of tiebreakers over the teams fighting for the Western Conference's final spot in the postseason.

The Bulls played without All-Star point guard Derrick Rose for the 10th straight game, falling to 14-6 this season without the reigning MVP and 7-3 during his current absence with a groin injury.

Celtics 91, Heat 72

In Boston, Rajon Rondo had a triple-double as Boston handed Miami its biggest loss of the season.

The Celtics outscored the Heat 31-12 in the third quarter, turning a five-point halftime lead into an 80-56 advantage. They stayed ahead by at least 19 the rest of the way for their fifth straight win.

Miami's last three losses have been by at least 15 points and its previous worst defeat of the season came just one week earlier in a 103-87 setback at Oklahoma City.

Rondo finished with 16 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds for his fifth triple-double of the season.

The Celtics increased their Atlantic Division lead to one game over idle Philadelphia.

Nuggets 104, Magic 101

In Orlando, Ty Lawson scored 12 of his 25 points in the second half and Arron Afflalo added 22 points as Denver beat short-handed Orlando.

The Nuggets won back-to-back games for the first time since a four-game win streak the first week of March. Al Harrington added 18 points.

Jameer Nelson led Orlando with 27 points, followed by Ryan Anderson with 20 and Glen Davis with 18. The Magic played without center Dwight Howard, who missed his first game of the season with back spasms.

The loss was Orlando's third straight and only the second to the Nuggets in 19 meetings at home.

Howard's absence was noticeable throughout, with the Nuggets scoring 44 points in the paint and shooting a 56 percent for the night.

Raptors 99, Wizards 92

In Toronto, Andrea Bargnani scored 18 points, Jose Calderon and DeMar DeRozan each had 15 as Toronto beat Washington at home for the fifth straight time.

Amir Johnson scored 10 points and James Johnson, Gary Forbes and Alan Anderson each had nine for the Raptors, who never trailed.

John Wall had 13 points and 11 assists and Kevin Seraphin scored a career-high 16 points for the Wizards, who were trying to win back-to-back games for the second time this season. Washington's only two-game winning streak came with victories at Detroit on Feb. 12 and at Portland on Feb. 14.

Jordan Crawford scored 18 points, Chris Singleton fouled out with 15, Roger Mason Jr. had 12 and Jan Veseley 10 for the Wizards, who have lost 11 of 14.

Pacers 104, Rockets 102, OT

In Houston, Danny Granger scored 32 points, including two free throws with 15.7 seconds left in overtime, leading Indiana past Houston.

The Pacers led by one when Paul George turned the ball over. Courtney Lee grabbed it and looked to have tied the ball up for Houston, but he stumbled trying to wrestle it away from the Pacers and was called for traveling.

Granger's free throws came next, before Chandler Parsons made a layup on the other end to again cut the lead to 1.

Darren Collison made the first of two free throws with 10.5 seconds left and Granger blocked a shot by Parsons at the buzzer to give Indiana the victory.

Goran Dragic led the Rockets with 22 points and Lee added 20.

Suns 92, Hornets 75

In Phoenix, Jared Dudley scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half and Phoenix climbed back to .500 and moved 1 1/2 games behind eighth-place Houston in the Western Conference.

Shannon Brown, starting for injured Grant Hill, added 16 for Phoenix. Channing Frye had 14 points and 11 rebounds, Marcin Gortat scored 13 and Steve Nash handed out 14 assists for the Suns.

Jason Smith and Marco Belinelli scored 14 apiece for the Hornets. Jarrett Jack added 13.

The Hornets, finishing off a five-game road trip, became the third team in the NBA and first in the West to lose 40 games.

Trail Blazers 119, Timberwolves 106

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points in his return after missing one game with a sore left elbow, leading Portland past Minnesota.

Nicolas Batum added 24 points for the Trail Blazers, who are 5-5 since interim coach Kaleb Canales replaced the fired Nate McMillan.

Oregon native Kevin Love had 26 points and nine rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have lost eight of their last 10 games. Minnesota used just nine players.

Both teams have been struggling to remain in the playoff picture. The Timberwolves have had injuries, including the loss of rookie Ricky Rubio for the season, while the Blazers have been adjusting to the dismissal of McMillan and the trade of starters Marcus Camby and Gerald Wallace at the deadline.

MAMI

From Page 28

completed the bike leg in 2:02:32.

In the men's division, Edmund Ewing, Wilfredo Barbo, and Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel topped the field with their second fastest overall time of 3:30:17. Ewing submitted 29:11 in the swim leg, Barbo timed in at 1:54:47 in the bike, and Kabiriel logged 1:05:01, the fastest among relay runners.

The winning men's team finished more five minutes ahead of the trio of Jeff El Hajj, Nap Dizon, and Danny Garcia. El Hajj was just 24 seconds behind Ewing in the swim leg after the former recorded 29:35. Then in the bike leg, Dizon gave his team the lead after tallying 1:47:15, about seven minutes faster than Barbo. However, Kabiriel regained the lead for this team when he caught up with Garcia, who had cramps and timed in at 1:17:13, more than 12 minutes behind the former.

Completing the Top 3 in the men's division were the team of swimmer Ryosei Toda (32:35), bike Cesar Fortaleza (1:55:01), and runner Chang Jang Wang (1:13:51) after posting a combined time of 3:43:00, while swimmer Eden Schwartz (46:52), biker Susan Marchitti (2:37:34), and runner Janet King (1:38:21) won the women's division with their time of 5:04:18.

Other relay finishers were Joshua Berher and Rene Calage (4:05:02); Eileen Escudero and Daniel Stafford (4:51:14); Benjamin and Ben Babauta (4:55:36), Daniel Calvo, David Santos, and George Charfauros (5:04:08); Naomi Anderson, Dora Jean Sarmiento, and Denise Perez (6:03:19); and Brian Morris and John Jenkins (5:19:58). Morris and Jenkins finished second to the last, but the latter recognized in the awards ceremony for completing the bike race from Banzai Cliff to Micro Beach with only one pedal after the other one broke.

Meanwhile, individual race results for various age groups will be published in *Saipan Tribune*'s Wednesday edition.

BRAVES

From Page 28

with a walk and a two fielders choices.

The Braves' thick of the order knotted the score at 3-all in the bottom of the third inning with three base smashes, two runs scored off misreads in the outfield, and Brandon Pua stole home.

Red Sox's Piling Terlaje reached on a single and scored off wild pitch in the top half of the fourth, but the Braves responded with three runs in the bottom frame off four hits. Jeremy Ngiraked bagged an RBI single.

The Red Sox left its leadoff man at third base to start the fifth and the Braves added its last three runs in the bottom frame before fending off a four-run comeback attempt in the final stand to escape with the win.

Ol'Aces 13, McDonald's 7

Ol'Aces broke the ice, 2-0, in the first inning when Jimmy Kaipat busted an RBI double and was later brought home off a sacrifice fly by Virgil Secharmidal.

Secharmidal left the yard for a solo lap in the third inning and ripped an RBI triple to start a five-run tear in the fourth. Glenn Calvo bagged an RBI single in the mix.

Ol'Aces' Kaipat pulled around on another RBI base hit in the top of the fifth for a 9-0 margin, which they needed as McDonald's rallied back with all seven of its runs in the bottom frame primarily enabled by a defensive meltdown by the Ol'Aces.

They latter would recover, however, and added four runs in the top of the sixth and secured the victory.

Ol'Aces pitcher Kimo Angailen gave up just three hits with a walk, a bean ball, and nine strikeouts in 4 2/3 scoreless innings. Secharmidal batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs and a run

Comets 10, Rays 0

The Comets shot in front, 5-0, in the first inning off a trio of doubles by Aurel Mendiola, Rejay Iskawa (two RBIs), and Austin Hocog (two RBIs). The other runs were gifted by three walks and errors.

The Rays tightened up a little on defense after the sketchy start, but struggled at the plate against Comets hurler Ethan Babauta.

As the Comets added a pair of runs in both the third and fourth innings, Babauta stood tall on the mound and secured a one-hit shutout through four frames. Rays' Jay Kalen broke up the no-no in the opening frame, however Babauta held him at third base and finished the game with a walk and four strikeouts.

Enforcers 12, Twins 1

The Enforcers trudged ahead, 6-0, in the first inning off five hits including back-to-back home runs by Kier Agda (two runs) and Shakobe Rangamar (one run). Joaquin Saralu also bagged an RBI single.

Enforcers' Agda later hammered another two-run shot over the fence in the second inning and his teammates added four more runs in the third before clocking out two frames early. Saralu bagged another RBIs single in the bottom of the third. The Twins' lone run came from a solo blast by Richard Atalig in the second inning.

It was the only hit allowed by Enforcers pitcher Agda, who issued one walk and struck out five in four innings.

Agda batted 2-for-3 with four RBIs, while Saralu swung 3-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs.

Falcons 15, IT&E 1

Falcons' Kekuni Kainoa belted an RBIs single to help build an early 2-0 lead in the opening frame and his team gashed IT&E with 13 runs in the second inning off an RBI walk, an RBI single by Ace Evangelista, followed by a grand slam from Benen Iguel. The other runs came off errors and a two-RBI double by Evangelista in his second plate appearance.

IT&E's Matt Kapileo stepped to the rubber in the fourth inning and struck out the side, but the damage was already done as IT&E left a runner stranded at first base in the finals stand.

Falcons' Jose Pangelinan gave up an earned run off four hits and a walk with six strikeouts through four frames.

NMASA

From Page 28

Sports and Recreation, and thus matters related to NMASA administration and operation will need an approval/concurrence from DCCA.

Saipan Tribune also learned that Faisao even told NMASA president Michael White that the latter's immediate supervisor is the director of the Division of Sports and Recreation (Jojo Attao). Faisao cited Executive Order 94-3 as basis for placing NMASA under the wing of DCCA through the Division of Sports and Recreation. The executive order superseded the law that created NMASA, but one its provisions state that the Division of Sports and Recreation's authority over NMASA is for administration and coordination purposes only.

NMASA said it will continue to function independently.

"NMASA believes that the secretary's interpretation of the applicable law, and the extent of his authority under it, is misplaced. NMASA is and will remain an independent organization, and not subject to the authority of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs," White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune.*

Saipan Tribune also contacted Faisao via email to ask for further comments on the issue, but declined.

The NMASA-DCCA battle over the maintenance and operation of the Oleai Sports Complex has been going on since last year. A bill (House Bill 17-268, authored by Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb) is still pending at the Committee on Judiciary and Government and seeking to give NMASA the control of the complex.

Both camps have different interpretation on which group has the right to operate the complex, as Public Law 4-66 that created NMASA in 1984 stated that NMASA's responsibilities include the operation, maintenance, and regulation of the sports facilities and fields in Commonwealth in coordination with the DCCA, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Education, Department of Public Works, and Office of the Governor. Despite the existence of the public law, the Division of Sports and Recreation has been the one in charge of the complex and has been receiving usage fees for the facilities, while NMASA is on its own.

In the pending House bill, NMASA's control is only limited within the Oleai Sports Complex in accordance with the terms and conditions of a memorandum to be executed only among NMASA, DCCA secretary, and the Cultural Affairs, and the governor.

NMASA in previous statements said that although it is seeking support from the government (through funding for off-island competitions) and was created under a public law, it can't be run by a government agency (DCCA). NMASA should remain an independent public corporation as doing otherwise would make the association ineligible for participation and membership to regional and international competitions, such as the Pacific Games and the University (FISU) Games, and the respective tournaments of NMASA member federations (tennis, athletics, swimming).

Saipan Tribune learned that NMASA is considering bringing the dispute to the court if the issue will not be resolved. NMASA during its previous monthly meetings announced that it tried several times to arrange a meeting with DCCA and the governor, but failed. NMASA had also submitted a budget to DCCA in the last fiscal year, but the budget was not included in the documents the latter turned over to the government.

CHECK

From Page 28

ro (two doubles), Keolani Rios (RBI), Minami Tadokoro (RBI), Brel (RBI), and Jovie Omar (three RBIs) made it around twice. Connie San Nicolas also belted a two-RBI single.

Enamo Meta finally got out of the nightmare inning, but left a runner stranded at second base to start the third and Check It Out managed the two runs needed for the early decision from an error and a walk off single by Tadokoro.

Check It Out's Brel swung 3-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs. Tadokoro batted 3-for-4 with an RBI and three runs, while Omar batted 2-for-3 with three RBIs and three runs. Enamo Meta' lost for the second time in three starts.

Berdax 28, Managaha 15

Berdax overcame an early 3-7 deficit with eight runs in the top of the second inning off a three-run home run by Vaughn Hofschneider, a two-run blast by Kel Kapileo, a solo shot by Franco Flores, and a two-RBI base rip by Ben Taisacan.

Managaha came up empty in the bottom frame and the count shifted to 12-8 as both teams added a run in the third inning.

The bats cooled midway through the game and the scorebook read, 16-11, for Berdax after five frames.

Then Berdax lit a 12-run fuse at the start of the sixth off 13 hits including a two-run homer by Taisacan; doubles from Frank Robert (RBI), Dung Tenorio, Jesse Tenorio (two RBIs), and Shine Tenorio; and RBI singles by Dave Camacho Jr., Fred Kaipat, and Juan Taitano.

Managaha's leadoff man Anton Lacanlale left the yard to start the bottom frame, but Berdax held it down in the clutch. Berdax batted through its lineup four and a half times in the match.

Gagu Eyes 24, Saipal 19

Saipal assumed an early 5-2 lead after the first inning with a two-run blast by Lefty Shiro, a two-RBI single by Luis Ngiraikelau, and an RBI double by Kuick Daman, but the game became knotted at nine apiece after the second frame.

Saipal mustered four runs from a triple by Shiro, a base rip by Gloyd Martin, and a two-run dong by Jordan Hayes, but Gagu Eyez unleashed a seven-run uprising in the bottom frame off six hits. Jack Sablan hammered a two-RBI double, Swain Cangco left the yard for two runs, and Tyrone Omar bagged a RBI single.

Gagu Eyes kept a lid on Saipal in the third inning and pulled ahead, 11-9, in the bottom frame off an error and an RBI base knock by Cangco.

Saipal's Ngiraikelau cranked a three-run bomb to help knot the score at 13-all after four innings, but Gagu Eyez kept chomping at the bit and moved in front, 17-13, in the fifth inning thanks to a two-run homer and a couple of extra runs from errors.

Saipal's Martin and Ico Eli lifted a pair of homers for the bulk of their team's five runs in the top of the sixth, but Gagu Eyez always had an answer and struck back with seven runs in the bottom frame and held strong on defense in the final stand.

Gagu Eyez's Cangco batted 4-for-4 for six RBIs and a run and Sablan went 3-for-4 with two RBIs and four runs.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	30	22	.577	–
Philadelphia	29	23	.558	1
New York	27	26	.509	3 1/2
New Jersey	19	35	.352	12
Toronto	18	35	.340	12 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	37	14	.725	–
Orlando	32	21	.604	6
Atlanta	31	23	.574	7 1/2
Washington	12	40	.231	25 1/2
Charlotte	7	43	.140	29 1/2

Central Division

x-Chicago	42	12	.778	–
Indiana	31	21	.596	10
Milwaukee	24	28	.462	17
Detroit	19	33	.365	22
Cleveland	17	33	.340	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	36	14	.720	–
Dallas	30	23	.566	7 1/2
Memphis	28	22	.560	8
Houston	28	25	.528	9 1/2
New Orleans	13	40	.245	24 1/2

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	40	12	.769	–
Denver	29	24	.547	11 1/2
Utah	27	26	.509	13 1/2
Portland	25	28	.472	15 1/2
Minnesota	25	29	.463	16

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	33	20	.623	–
L.A. Clippers	31	21	.596	1 1/2
Phoenix	26	26	.500	6 1/2
Golden State	20	31	.392	12
Sacramento	18	34	.346	14 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

YESTERDAY'S GAMES

Oklahoma City 92, Chicago 78
Boston 91, Miami 72
Toronto 99, Washington 92
Denver 104, Orlando 101
Indiana 104, Houston 102, OT
Portland 119, Minnesota 106
Phoenix 92, New Orleans 75
L.A. Lakers 120, Golden State 112

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	53	527	357	1489	28.1
Durant, OKC	52	510	319	1438	27.7
Love, MIN	50	436	356	1326	26.5
James, MIA	50	494	297	1323	26.5
Westbrook, OKC	52	481	260	1273	24.5
Wade, MIA	42	365	212	956	22.8
D. Williams, NJN	49	358	235	1060	21.6
Aldridge, POR	50	435	203	1074	21.5
Nowitzki, DAL	49	368	247	1040	21.2
Griffin, LAC	52	441	208	1092	21.0
Howard, ORL	52	408	269	1085	20.9
Ellis, MIL	46	354	178	938	20.4
Lee, GOL	50	400	190	990	19.8
Jefferson, UTA	48	414	114	943	19.6
Paul, LAC	47	334	188	920	19.6
Parker, SAN	47	351	193	909	19.3
J. Johnson, ATL	48	343	131	916	19.1
Pierce, BOS	49	309	239	935	19.1
Thornton, SAC	45	311	137	855	19.0
Irving, CLE	45	315	157	852	18.9

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Chandler, NYK	197	291	.677
Bynum, LAL	351	604	.581
Howard, ORL	408	704	.580
Gortat, PHX	350	623	.562
McGee, DEN	245	453	.541
Griffin, LAC	441	819	.538
Nash, PHX	235	438	.537
Boozer, CHI	375	699	.536
James, MIA	494	923	.535
Ibaka, OKC	200	377	.531

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	52	188	567	755	14.5
Love, MIN	50	207	480	687	13.7
Bynum, LAL	49	156	429	585	11.9
Cousins, SAC	50	213	343	556	11.1
Humphries, NJN	51	192	365	557	10.9
Griffin, LAC	52	163	399	562	10.8
Gasol, LAL	53	150	406	556	10.5
Gortat, PHX	52	140	375	515	9.9
Monroe, DET	52	198	313	511	9.8
Noah, CHI	52	196	314	510	9.8

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	48	541	11.3
Rondo, BOS	42	464	11.0
Paul, LAC	47	414	8.8
Calderon, TOR	48	421	8.8
D. Williams, NJN	49	423	8.6
Rubio, MIN	41	336	8.2
Rose, CHI	34	271	8.0
Parker, SAN	47	374	8.0
Wall, WAS	52	405	7.8
Lowry, HOU	38	273	7.2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Marianas High School's Madeleine Alegre blocks Settsu Red Impulse's Ayumi Doshita during the 4th Annual Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament held last March 27 and 28 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

MHS special guest player Mizuki Iwasaki drives to the basket against her erstwhile Red Impulse teammate Kanako Saeki in the girls finals.

Red Impulse's Mizuki Iwasaki inbounds the ball in Tuesday's preliminary match against the MHS Lady Dolphins.

Lady Red Impulse's Akane Yamashita falls back for a fade-away during the girls finals.

MISO All-Stars' Darrius Pettus (Tinian High School) splits the defense on a fastbreak in the championship match against Kagman High School.

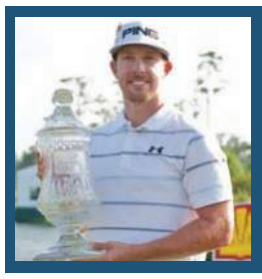
From left, MHS Lady Dolphins' Jaime Lyn Mendoza, COPSA Lady All-Stars' Jan-Nasia Travilla (Mt. Carmel School), MISO Lady All-Stars Daylinne Joseph (Saipan Southern High School), MISO Boy's All-Stars' Chris MIzer, Kagman High School's Jason Lampkin and COPSA Boys All-Stars' Reynald Calbatica (Mt. Carmel School) pose with their prizes after being selected as most valuable players by the Settsu Red Impulse coaching staff during the awards ceremony held after the finals.

MISO All-Stars' Bryl Alegre is swarmed by two Kagman High School defenders in the boys finals.

Lady Red Impulse's Ayumi Doshita and Miyu Nakao double up on MHS' Madeleine Alegre under the basket during the girls finals.

MHS student Herbert Miranda, right, poses with Delta Airlines' Esther Sound white holding a free ticket to Japan after winning the relay race during halftime of the girls finals.

MISO All-Stars' Jaymark De Guzman collides with a Kagman High School player.



Hunter Mahan wins Houston Open

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Kansas, Kentucky to meet in power-program final

PAGE 24

Mami-anchored team tops relay

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mamiko Oshima-Berger had different teammates, but produced the same results, ruling the relay division in last Saturday's 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

Oshima-Berger, who won last year's relay with biker Kevin Carey and swimmer Victoria Chentsova, this time teamed up with swimmer Kento Akimaru and biker Aldrin Sta. Ana and the trio combined for 3:25:58 in the 2-kilometer swim, 60-km bike, and 15-km run to lead the 12 other relay squads and ruled the mixed division.

Akimaru gave his team a three-second lead when he timed in at 28:52 in the swim leg in the waters off Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio. The 11-year-old Saipan Swim Club swimmer was third overall out of the water behind pros Ben Allen (25:16) and Jacqui Slack (28:13). Chentsova, who joined forces with biker Derek Chambers (2:05:57) and runner Caesar Danao (1:10:41), was fourth out of the water with her 28:55 and her team ended at second place with a combined time of 3:46:48.

The lead of Oshima-Berger's team widened after the bike leg (from PIC to as far as Bird Island Lookout and to Micro Beach), as Sta. Ana recorded 1:50:39 (18th best out of 69 bikers). Then in the run leg from Micro Beach to Oleai Bra & Grill and back, Oshima-Berger timed in at 1:05:11 (11th fastest out of 69 runners/second in the relay) for the about 21-minute lead over Chentsova and company. Rounding out the Top 3 in the mixed relay division was the two-person team of Roxie Lamar and Erico Castro. Lamar did both the swim and run legs of the road race, timing in at 49:56 and 1:28:27, respectively, while the 14-year-old Castro

See MAMI on Page 26

Oshima-Berger

Akimaru

Sta. Ana

Braves fend off Red Sox in Majors

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Natibu Sports Association Tanapag Braves survived a last inning rally by the Bank of Saipan Red Sox, 9-8, as the Major Division of the 2012 Saipan Little League continued last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

In other Major Division results, IT&E Ol'Aces defeated McDonald's, 13-7, and the first place Rep. Joseph P. Guerrero Dandan Comets blazed past the Pacific Amusement Rays, 10-0, on Saturday.

On Sunday, the DPS Dare Program JPO Enforcers downed As Matuis Twins, 12-1, and the Natibu Tanapag Falcons pelted IT&E, 15-1.

Braves 9, Red Sox 8

The Red Sox spurted ahead, 3-0, in the second inning off a pair of doubles by Chabo Leon Guerrero and Ryan Aguon mixed in

See BRAVES on Page 26

DPS Dare Program-JPO Enforcers' Kier Agda, seen here in a file photo, cranked out two home runs in their 12-1 victory against As Matuis Twins in the Major Division last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

NMASA-DCCA feud heats up

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' tug of war over the Oleai Sports Complex is heating up as both camps reiterated their claims on the operation of the contested sports facility.

Saipan Tribune learned that the never-ending dispute brewed anew when the owner of a concession stand near the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield that is located inside the sports complex inquired on whether to make payment to NMASA or DCCA. The owners were told by NMASA to contact the association, which it says has the authority and control of the management and operation of the complex and its surrounding facilities.

However, DCCA through its secretary, Melvin Faisao, claimed otherwise, stating that NMASA is under the department through the Division of

See NMASA on Page 26

Check it Out still perfect in women's division

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Women's division frontrunner Check It Out buried Enamo Meta, 23-3, in three innings and extended its unbeaten streak to four in row as the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2012 Budweiser Softball League season continued Friday night at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

In the men's division, Berdax (3-1) defeated Managaha Boys (0-5), 28-15, and Gagu Eyez (3-2) outlasted Saipal (2-3), 24-19.

Check It Out 23, Enamo Meta 3

Enamo Meta stung Check It Out with three runs off four hits right out of the gate, but Check It Out took the punch and blew up the scoreboard for a dominant mercy victory in three innings.

Check It Out bashed four hits as well, but mustered five runs with the help of some shaky defense. Janelle Brel and Rellani Ogumoro bagged RBI singles.

Enamo Meta drew a blank in the second and Check It Out shot ahead, 21-3, in a long second inning off a dozen hits.

Every player in the lineup scored and Sandy Leon Guerre-

See CHECK on Page 26

Check It Out's Sandy Leon Guerrero absorbs a bumpy landing as she slides into home plate during Friday's CSA women division softball match against Enamo Meta at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND